From: Sent:

Karen Reisin

Monday, July 4, 2022 12:58 PM

To:

Terri Olian

Cc:

Ashley Kelly; Amy Small; Ali Barnett; Alyssa Knobel; Betsy Brint; Bobbie Hinden; Bruce Sperling; Cookie Kohn; Craig Leva; Cristina Mota; David Hoffman; David Israel; David L. Reich; Deb Cogan; Deborah Finn; Donald Stewart; Emily Nasatir, Eric Ephraim; Eric Zoberman; Erik Gimbel; Ginny Schulte; Heather Sher, James Hospodarsky; Jamie Strait Muller; Jean Meadows; Jennifer Aiello; Joe Reinstein; Joey Bleiman; Jon Levey; Julie Kraff; Kevin Ryan; Larry Block; Levin, Laurie; Nancy Mills; Patty Pell; Richard Cortesi; Robyn Schuster; Sallyan Windt; Simon Leibovich; Sofia I.Alvarez; Taryn Kessel; Tom Koulentes;

**Tonia Arrington** 

Subject:

Re: Note to All

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

So saddened to hear what's going on there. We are out of town and thankful to hear you're all safe. Prayers to all.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 4, 2022, at 10:48 AM, Terri Olian <a href="mailto:terri@hpcfil.org">terri@hpcfil.org</a> wrote:

Everyone's thoughts, words, and prayers are greatly appreciated. There really is no way to fully express the sorrow we are all feeling. Stay safe everyone. Hugs to all.

Terri Olian

Executive Director, Highland Park Community Foundation

•□ o 847-433-4100 •□ terri@hpcfil.org •□ www.hpcfil.org

Give Where You Live! Donate here or by mail (P.O. Box 398, Highland Park, IL 60035). Click here for more options!

Click here to recommend a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund if you are a client of Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, or BNY Mellon

Celebrating 30 years of making a difference, 1992-2022!

Together, we will continue to improve the lives of individuals and enhance our community as a whole!

On Mon, Jul 4, 2022, at 11:42 AM, Ashley Kelly wrote:

Sending love to all, this is such a sad, horrific day

On Mon, Jul 4, 2022 at 10:39 AM Amy Small wrote: Thank goodness!

Amy Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 4, 2022, at 7:13 PM, Terri Olian < terri@hpcfil.org > wrote:

Dear All,

As many of you know, there was a horrible shooting today at Highland Park's 4th of July parade. I am deeply shocked and upset.

At this point we have heard there were multiple victims. As information becomes available we will better know how we as a Foundation can offer help to the victims and our community.

All members who participated with the HPCF in the parade are safe.

Sending love to all of you.

Betsy

Terri Olian

Executive Director, Highland Park Community Foundation
• □ 0 847-433-

4100 •□ terri@hpcfil.org •□ www.hpcfil.org

Give Where You Live! Donate <u>here</u> or by mail (P.O. Box 398, Highland Park, IL 60035). Click <u>here</u> for more options!

Click <u>here</u> to recommend a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund if you are a client of Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, or BNY Mellon

Celebrating 30 years of making a difference, 1992-2022!

Together, we will continue to improve the lives of individuals and enhance our community as a whole!

From: Highland Park Public Library <whatsnew@hplibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Highland

Park Public Library <enews@hplibrary.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:01 PM

To:

rbannon@cityhpil.com

Subject:

News - Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



# City of Highland Park

July 4, 2022

# Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

Highland Park, Illinois – Highland Park Police are responding to an active shooter incident that occurred in downtown Highland Park during the 4th of July parade. This is an active incident. All individuals are advised to shelter in place. Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect; evidence of a firearm has been recovered. Numerous law enforcement agencies are assisting and have secured a perimeter around downtown Highland Park. 16 people have been transferred to the hospital; 5 individuals are confirmed deceased.

More information will be posted to <u>cityhpil.com</u> as it becomes available.

Highland Park Public Library | 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

Unsubscribe rbannon@cityh.il.com

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by enews@hplibrary.org powered by

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Try email marketing for free Loday!

From:

Highland Park Public Library <whatsnew@hplibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Highland

Park Public Library <enews@hplibrary.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:01 PM

To:

acivitello@cityhpil.com

Subject:

News - Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



# City of Highland Park

July 4, 2022

# Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

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Highland Park Public Library | 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

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Try email marketing for free today!

From:

Highland Park Public Library <whatsnew@hplibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Highland

Park Public Library <enews@hplibrary.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:01 PM

To: Subject: cicasiano@cityhpil.com News - Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



# City of Highland Park

July 4, 2022

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Highland Park Public Library | 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

Unsubscribe cicasiano @cityhpil.com
Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice
Sent by enews@hplibrary.org powered by

x

Try email marketing for free today!

From:

Highland Park Public Library <whatsnew@hplibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Highland

Park Public Library <enews@hplibrary.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:01 PM

To:

rsabo@cityhpil.com

Subject:

News - Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



# City of Highland Park

July 4, 2022

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Highland Park Public Library | 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

Unsubscribe rsabo@cit; hoil.com

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by enews@hplibrary.org powered by

X Charles Tribute

Try entail marketing for free today!

From:

Highland Park Public Library <whatsnew@hplibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Highland

Park Public Library <enews@hplibrary.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:01 PM gneukirch@cityhpil.com

Subject:

News - Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



# City of Highland Park

July 4, 2022

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Highland Park Public Library | 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

Unsubscribe aneukirch@citvhpil.com

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×

Try email marketing for free today!

From: Highland Park Public Library <whatsnew@hplibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Highland

Park Public Library <enews@hplibrary.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:01 PM

To: jdotson@cityhpil.com

Subject: News - Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



# City of Highland Park

July 4, 2022

# Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

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Highland Park Public Library | 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

Unsubscribe idotson@cityhoil.com

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by enews@hplibrary.org powered by

Mariness conclusion in the second

Try email marketing for free today!

From:

jdotson@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:01 PM

To:

whatsnew@hplibrary.ccsend.com

Subject:

Automatic reply: News - Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

I am out of the office and and not responding to email or calls beginning Wednesday, June 28, 2022. I will respond when I return to duty on Wednesday, July 20, 2022. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Assistant City Manager Erin Jason at ejason@cityhpil.com or 847-926-1004. Thank you, Jennifer

From:

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:04 PM

cityhp@cityhpil.com

Subject:

More footage from the parade shooing

Attachments:

Video.mov; image1.jpeg

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Sent from my iPhone



From:

Eitan Schwarz MD

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:04 PM

To:

Undisclosed recipients

Subject:

Local expert to school and civic officials: What to tell children about shooting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

# FOR LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE ONLY. NO MEDIA INTERVIEWS PLEASE.

Please distribute this widely starting now to civic, law enforcement, religious, school, and mental health officials in local communities.

Today's HP shooting reminds us of our psychiatric and community experience and research at Evanston Hospital in the aftermath of the tragic shooting in Winnetka in 1988. Other articles on the site may be helpful.

http://mydigitalfamily.org/miscellaneous-links-what-to-tell-children-about-terrorist-bombings/ A one page handout distributed widely in the US state department in the early 1990's.

http://mydigitalfamily.org/2018/03/29/helping-children-and-vourself-cope-with-terrorism-and-other-violence/longer more detailed

## MORE BACKGROUND

http://mydigitalfamily.org/miscellaneous-links-school-shootings/other terror incidents

http://mydigitalfamily.org/professional-excellence/ Other related writings

My Best,

Eltan d Schwarz MD

From iPad

From:

Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:06 PM nrotering@cityhpil.com

To: Subject:

MSNBC Intv Req 3p or 4p CT?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Mayor Rotering,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an Interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely, Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri

Booking Producer
Deadline: White House
Mobile:

Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com

From: Testi, Jennifer < Jennifer.Testi@FOX.COM>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:07 PM

To: ljogmen@cityhpil.com

**Subject:** Media Request - America's Newsroom

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good Afternoon,

First and foremost my thoughts and prayers are with the Highland Park community after today's tragic and horrific shooting.

Reaching out to inquire if Chief Jogmen or another representative of the Department is available to join Bill Hemmer and Dana Perino on America's Newsroom between 9-11am ET tomorrow?

Respectfully, Jennifer

Jennifer Testi

Booker, America's Newsroom

Desk: 212-301-3803 Cell:

AMERICA has chosen....

FOX NEWS CHANNEL is #1 in ratings, #1 with viewers.

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information. It is intended solely for the named addressee(s). If you are not an addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of the message to an addressee), you may not copy or deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments that does not relate to the official business of Fox Corporation, or its subsidiaries must be taken not to have been sent or endorsed by any of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

From:

Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:07 PM

To:

ablumberg@cityhpil.com

Subject:

MSNBC Intv Request 3 or 4p CT Hour?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Councilmember Blumberg,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely, Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri

**Booking Producer** Deadline: White House Mobile:

Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com

From:

Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:07 PM mholleman@cityhpil.com

Subject:

MSNBC Intv Req - 3p or 4p CT hour?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Councilmember Holleman,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely, Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri

Booking Producer Deadline: White House

Mobile:

Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com

From:

Idelaney@cityhpil.com

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:08 PM daniella.mora@cnn.com

Subject:

FW: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

The following press release was just circulated:

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 4, 2022

## Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

Highland Park, Illinois — Highland Park Police are responding to an active shooter incident that occurred in downtown Highland Park during the 4th of July parade. This is an active incident. All individuals are advised to shelter in place. Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect: evidence of a firearm has been recovered. Numerous law enforcement officers are responding and have secured a perimeter around downtown Highland Park. 19 people have been transferred to the hospital: 5 individuals are confirmed deceased.

More information will be posted to cityhpil.com as it becomes available.

Please follow the City website for future updates.

Thank you and stay safe, Erin

Erin K. Jason Assistant City Manager, City of Highland Park

From:

jlogan@cityhpil.com

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:08 PM Blogan1961@gmail.com

Subject:

Fwd: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

Thanks, Julie Logan Sent from my iPhone

#### Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jason, Erin" <ejason@cityhpil.com>
Date: July 4, 2022 at 12:48:04 PM CDT
To: All Users <All\_Users@cityhpil.com>

Subject: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

All -

First and foremost we want to let you know that all City employees are physically okay. EPA information will be distributed under separate cover from HR.

The following press release was just circulated:

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 4, 2022

## Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

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Please follow the City website for future updates.

Thank you and stay safe, Erin

Erin K. Jason Assistant City Manager, City of Highland Park

From:

Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:08 PM

To:

alidawer@cityhpil.com

Subject:

MSNBC Intv Req - 3p or 4p CT hour?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Councilmember Lidawer,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely,

Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri

**Booking Producer** Deadline: White House Mobile

Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com

From:

jlogan@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

jcasa@comcast.net; jackiekmail@gmail.com

Subject:

Fwd: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

Thanks,
Julie Logan
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jason, Erin" <ejason@cityhpil.com> Date: July 4, 2022 at 12:48:04 PM CDT To: All Users <All\_Users@cityhpil.com>

Subject: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

All-

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July 4, 2022

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Please follow the City website for future updates.

Thank you and stay safe, Erin

Erin K. Jason Assistant City Manager, City of Highland Park

From:

Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:08 PM

To:

astolberg@cityhpil.com

Subject:

MSNBC Intv Req - 3p or 4p CT hour?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Councilmember Stolberg,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely, Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri **Booking Producer** Deadline: White House Mobile:

From:

Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

'atapia@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Tapia Interview Request - Mon. July 4th

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

This is Sophall, a producer for CTV News Channel in Canada.

Is Councilmember Tapia available for an interview with CTV News Channel today?

We would like an update on the active shooting incident during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, and discuss how the community is coping.

Hopefully we can do the interview live today via Skype or FaceTime.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play

m so; hall.duch@bellmedia.ca |@soduch 100 Queen Street, Suite 1400 Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9



From:

Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

'astolberg@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Stolberg Interview Request - Mon. July

4th

#### [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

This is Sophall, a producer for CTV News Channel in Canada.

Is Councilmember Stolberg available for an interview with CTV News Channel today?

We would like an update on the active shooting incident during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, and discuss how the community is coping.

Hopefully we can do the interview live today via Skype or FaceTime.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play

m sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca | @soduch

100 Queen Street, Suite 1400 Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9

OHV

From:

Duch, Sophall < sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

'alidawer@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Lidawer Interview Request - Mon. July

4th

#### [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play

m soj hall.duch@bellmedia.ca | @soduch

100 Queen Street, Suite 1400 Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9

OHV

From:

Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent: To:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

'mholleman@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Holleman Interview Request - Mon. July

#### [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play

sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca |@soduch

100 Queen Street, Suite 1400

Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9



From:

Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

'ablumberg@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Blumberg Interview Request - Mon. July

4th

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Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play

manufacture | southall.duch@bellmedia.ca |@soduch 100 Queen Street, Suite 1400

Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9



From:

Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

'kstone@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Stone Interview Request - Mon. July 4th

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

This is Sophall, a producer for CTV News Channel in Canada.

Is Councilmember Stone available for an interview with CTV News Channel today?

We would like an update on the active shooting incident during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, and discuss how the community is coping.

Hopefully we can do the interview live today via Skype or FaceTime.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play

m so

sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca | @soduch

100 Queen Street, Suite 1400 Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9

/\*\*\* passes vectors

From:

Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

'atapia@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Tapia Interview Request - Mon. July

4th

**Attachments:** 

image001.jpg

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play m 343-573-8803 | sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca |@soduch 100 Queen Street, Suite 1400 Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9



From:

Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

'kstone@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Stone Interview Request - Mon. July

4th

Attachments:

image001.jpg

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play m 343-573-8803 | sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca |@soduch 100 Queen Street, Suite 1400 Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9



From:

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM Sneuman@cityhpil.com

Subject: Attachments: Video of HP parade IMG\_138967381.MOV

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

There doesn't appear to be footage of the shooter, but it's relevant as to the number of gunshots.

From:

Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:09 PM

To:

kstone@cityhpil.com

Subject:

MSNBC Intv Req - 3p or 4p CT hour?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Councilmember Stone,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely, Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri

Booking Producer
Deadline: White House
Mobile:

Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com

From:

Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:10 PM

To:

atapia@cityhpil.com

Subject:

MSNBC Intv Req - 3p or 4p CT hour?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Councilmember Tapia,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely, Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri

Booking Producer
Deadline: White House
Mobile:

Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com

From: kstone@cityhpil.com

Sent:Monday, July 4, 2022 1:10 PMTo:gneukirch@cityhpil.comSubject:Fwd: CNN - Interview Request

Kim Stone Highland Park Councilwoman Kstone@cityhpil.com (847) 780-7432

### Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stone, Kim" <kstone@cityhpil.com>
Date: July 4, 2022 at 12:53:40 PM CDT

To: "Neukirch, Ghida" <gneukirch@cityhpil.com>

**Subject: Fwd: CNN - Interview Request** 

Kim Stone Highland Park Councilwoman Kstone@cityhpil.com (847) 780-7432

### Begin forwarded message:

From: "Goodman, David" <david.c.goodman@warnermedia.com>

Date: July 4, 2022 at 12:44:26 PM CDT

To: "Rotering, Nancy" <nrotering@cityhpil.com>, "Blumberg, Tony"

<ablumberg@cityhpil.com>, "Holleman, Michelle" <mholleman@cityhpil.com>,

"Lidawer, Annette" <alidawer@cityhpil.com>, "Stolberg, Adam"

<astolberg@cityhpil.com>, "Stone, Kim" <kstone@cityhpil.com>, "Tapia, Andres"

<atapia@cityhpil.com>

**Subject: CNN - Interview Request** 

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi all,

David at CNN here. Are any of you available for a phone interview between 2 and 4pm \*EASTERN\* today on CNN to talk the shooting? If yes, can you call me at 332-213-6775

Best,

David Goodman
CNN | Editorial Producer

Twitter - @davidgoodmanTV Phone - (332) 213-6775

From:

Google Alerts < googlealerts-noreply@google.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:10 PM

To:

chersch@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Google Alert - Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



# Highland Park, IL

WEB

### July 4, 2022 Active Shooter Incident - Welcome to Highland Park, IL

Welcome to Highland Park II.

Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect; evidence of a firearm has been recovered.

Numerous law enforcement officers are responding and ...



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Send - : N

From:

ilogan@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:11 PM

To:

ejason@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Re: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

You are doing such a good job.

Thanks,
Julie Logan
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 4, 2022, at 1:08 PM, Logan, Julie < jlogan@cityhpil.com> wrote:

Thanks, Julie Logan Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jason, Erin" <ejason@cityhpil.com>
Date: July 4, 2022 at 12:48:04 PM CDT
To: All Users <All\_Users@cityhpil.com>

Subject: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

All-

First and foremost we want to let you know that all City employees are physically okay. EPA information will be distributed under separate cover from HR.

The following press release was just circulated:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 4, 2022

# Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

Highland Park, Illinois — Highland Park Police are responding to an active shooter incident that occurred in downtown Highland Park during the 4th of July parade. This is an active incident. All individuals are advised to shelter in place. Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect; evidence of a firearm has been recovered. Numerous law enforcement officers are responding and have secured a perimeter around downtown Highland Park. 19 people have been transferred to the hospital; 5 individuals are confirmed deceased.

More information will be posted to cityhpil.com as it becomes available

Please follow the City website for future updates.

Thank you and stay safe, Erin

Erin K. Jason Assistant City Manager, City of Highland Park

From:

Greene, Nyja <nyja.greene@warnermedia.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:11 PM

To:

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; aeb@ablumberg.com

Subject:

Please Read- CNN trying to reach you regarding the parade shooting in Highland Park, IL- Please call me soonest on my cell phone at Contact: Nyja Greene

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Councilmember Tony Blumberg,

Good afternoon. First and foremost I am so sorry for what happened at the Highland Park, IL parade shooting today. Were you at the parade? Do you know anyone who was at the parade? I'm hoping that you will be willing to join us for a live 5-6 minute interview on Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> during our 9am ET (8am CT), or

10am ET (9am CT) our virtually via Cisco or Skype, or if we have a live camera near you? Again, I'm so sorry that this happened in your community today.

Please call me asap on my cell phone at Sincerely, Nyja Greene, CNN Editorial Producer

From: Village of Glenview <glenviewvillage@glenview-il.ccsend.com> on behalf of Village of

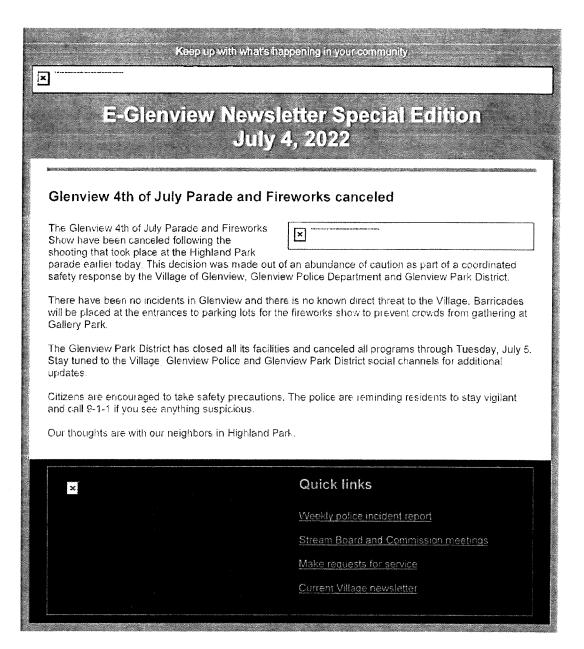
Glenview < glenviewvillage@glenview.il.us>

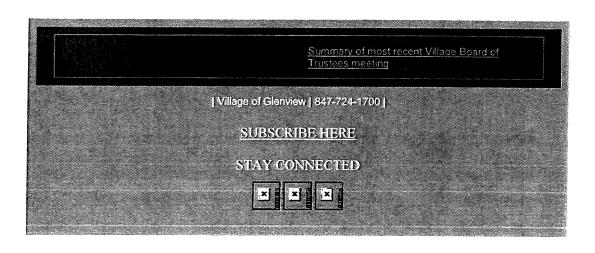
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:11 PM To:

rbannon@cityhpil.com

Subject: Special Alert: Glenview 4th of July Parade & Fireworks Canceled

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]





Village of Glenview | 2500 East Lake Avenue, Glenview, IL 60026

Unsubscribe rbannon@cit\_h\_ill.com

<u>Update Profile | Constant\_Contac</u>t Data Notice

Sent by glenviewvillage@glenview.il.us

From:

kstone@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:12 PM

To:

sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca gneukirch@cityhpil.com

Cc: Subject:

Re: Canada's CTV News Channel - Councilmember Stone Interview Request - Mon. July

4th

Forwarding your request to City Manager Neukirch.

Kim Stone Highland Park Councilwoman Kstone@cityhpil.com (847) 780-7432

On Jul 4, 2022, at 1:09 PM, Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

This is Sophall, a producer for CTV News Channel in Canada.

Is Councilmember Stone available for an interview with CTV News Channel today?

We would like an update on the active shooting incident during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, and discuss how the community is coping.

Hopefully we can do the interview live today via Skype or FaceTime.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play

message | so: hall.duch@bellmedia.ca |@soduch 100 Queen Street, Suite 1400

OH----- ON KID 110

Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9



From: Village of Winnetka < Communications@Winnetka.org >

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:12 PM

To: rbannon@cityhpil.com

Subject: News from the Village of Winnetka: Fourth of July Fireworks Cancelled

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

View this email in your browser

×××

July 4, 2022

# Fourth of July Fireworks Cancelled

Out of respect for the victims of the shooting in Highland Park earlier today, and out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our community, tonight's fireworks at Duke Childs Field have been cancelled. The Park District and the Village carefully planned the parade, the events on the Green, and the fireworks, and looked forward to celebrating with you. We are heartbroken the celebration of our country's founding has been cut short by a violent act in our neighboring community. It is our hope you are able to celebrate the remainder of Independence Day with your families and loved ones. Our thoughts are with our friends and neighbors in Highland Park and all who have been impacted by this tragedy.

Not on our mailing list?



### View previous messages to the community.







Copyright = 2022 Village of Winnetka. All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in to receive community information.



### Our mailing address is:

Village of Winnetka 510 Green Bay Rd Winnetka, IL 60093-2552

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list

$\boxtimes$	PARCOCAL PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRAL

From:

Jennie Ozan <jozan@theintuitivecounselinggroup.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:13 PM

To:

Amy Hyndman

Subject:

Help for you if needed

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

### Hi Amy,

I hope this email finds you and your family safe. I understand there is still an active shooter situation in Highland Park. Please know I'm available to help the people affected by this in any way I can. I imagine the station has therapists helping already, however, I wanted to reach out and let you know I'm able to help with the emotional trauma aspect of this if needed. Please feel free to reach out if you need any assistance.

Take care and stay safe, Jennie Ozan

> Dr. Jennie Ozan, Psy.D She/her/hers Co-Owner

Ú

O lozan@theintuitivecourselinggroup.com

100 Tri State International Drive Suite 135 Lincotnshire, Illinois 60069 Fax: 847.607,9763 216.338.7086

www.theintultivecounsetinggroup.com

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From:

clater@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:13 PM

To:

jfontane@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Fwd: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

### Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jason, Erin" <ejason@cityhpil.com>
Date: July 4, 2022 at 12:48:04 PM CDT
To: All Users <All\_Users@cityhpil.com>

Subject: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

All-

First and foremost we want to let you know that all City employees are physically okay. EPA information will be distributed under separate cover from HR.

The following press release was just circulated:

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 4, 2022

### Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park: all advised to shelter in place

**Highland Park**, **Illinois** – Highland Park Police are responding to an active shooter incident that occurred in downtown Highland Park during the 4th of July parade. This is an active incident. All individuals are advised to shelter in place. Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect; evidence of a firearm has been recovered. Numerous law enforcement officers are responding and have secured a perimeter around downtown Highland Park. 19 people have been transferred to the hospital; 5 individuals are confirmed deceased.

More information will be posted to cityhpil.com as it becomes available.

Please follow the City website for future updates.

Thank you and stay safe, Erin

Erin K. Jason Assistant City Manager, City of Highland Park

From: kstone@cityhpil.com

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:13 PM

To: claudia.dominguez@warnermedia.com

**Cc:** gneukirch@cityhpil.com

Subject: Re: CNN Inquiry

Sharing this request with the City Manager.

Kim Stone Highland Park Councilwoman Kstone@cityhpil.com (847) 780-7432

On Jul 4, 2022, at 12:03 PM, Dominguez, Claudia <claudia.dominguez@warnermedia.com> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good afternoon,

I hope you are well. This is Claudia from CNN in New York. I am looking for a statement or any information you might have on the shooting that took place at the Highland Park Independence Day parade.

Thank you.

Regards, Claudia 678 906-1562

From:

Hoffman, Francesca <francesca.hoffman@warnermedia.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:14 PM

To:

ljogmen@cityhpil.com

Cc:

Finley, Ben

Subject:

CNN Erin Burnett OutFront - Interview request for Chief Lou Jogmen

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

I'm a producer with Erin Burnett OutFront -- I'm sorry to be reaching out under such sad circumstances.

We would like to request an interview with Chief Jogmen tomorrow, in the 7 PM ET hour, to provide an update to viewers on the Highland Park shooting that occurred today.

I can assist with logistics. Please reach me here or at the cell below.

We are keeping your community in our thoughts.

Thank you, Francesca

Francesca Giuliani Hoffman CNN Mobile:

Desk: 212-275-7519

From: Harry Gilmore <hgilmore@reltd.com>
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:14 PM

To: Ramesh Kanapareddy; Manny Gomez; Ron Bannon

Subject: Fwd: Highland Park shooting: Reports of 5 dead at parade

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I pray that you are all safe!

Harry L. Gilmore, Jr. Sent From My I-Phone

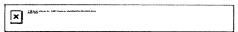
Begin forwarded message:

From: Chicago Tribune < chicagotribune@nsl.chicagotribune.com>

**Date:** July 4, 2022 at 12:44:35 PM CDT **To:** Harry Gilmore <a href="mailto:hgilmore@reltd.com">hgilmore@reltd.com</a>

Subject: Highland Park shooting: Reports of 5 dead at parade Reply-To: "chicagotribune@nsl.chicagotribune.com" <chicagotribune-HP2v600000181ca505519c1e700f4bbcf76f8036@nsl.chicagotribune.com>

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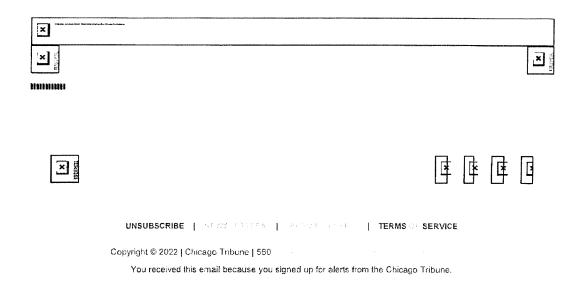


### **BREAKING NEWS**

# Highland Park shooting: 'It was chaotic,' reports of 5 dead, 16 others shot during Fourth of July parade

More than a dozen people were shot Monday morning, at least five of them fatally, about 10 minutes into the northern suburb's Fourth of July parade, according to police and witnesses.

### Read More



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From: Hoffman, Francesca < francesca.hoffman@warnermedia.com>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:15 PM
To: nrotering@cityhpil.com

Cc: Finley, Ben

Subject: CNN Erin Burnett OutFront - Interview request for Mayor Nancy Rotering

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

I'm a producer with Erin Burnett OutFront -- I'm sorry to be reaching out under such sad circumstances.

We would like to request an interview with Mayor Rotering tomorrow, in the 7 PM ET hour, to provide an update to viewers on the Highland Park shooting that occurred today.

I can assist with logistics. Please reach me here or at the cell below.

We are keeping your community in our thoughts.

Thank you, Francesca

Mobile:

Francesca Giuliani Hoffman CNN

Desk: 212-275-7519

From:

Dominguez, Claudia <claudia.dominguez@warnermedia.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:15 PM

To: Cc: Stone, Kim Neukirch, Ghida

Subject:

RE: CNN Inquiry

### [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thank you so much and if we can get a number for her press person in case she would like to be on our air regarding the situation.

From: Stone, Kim <kstone@cityhpil.com>
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 2:13 PM

To: Dominguez, Claudia <claudia.dominguez@warnermedia.com>

Cc: Neukirch, Ghida <gneukirch@cltyhpil.com>

Subject: Re: CNN inquiry

### **EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments**

Sharing this request with the City Manager.

Kim Stone Highland Park Councilwoman Kstone @cityheil.com (847) 780-7432

On Jul 4, 2022, at 12:03 PM, Dominguez, Claudia <claudia.dominguez@warnermedia.com> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good afternoon,

I hope you are well. This is Claudia from CNN in New York. I am looking for a statement or any information you might have on the shooting that took place at the Highland Park Independence Day parade.

Thank you.

Regards, Claudia 678 906-1562

From:

kstone@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:16 PM

To:

Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com

Cc:

gneukirch@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Re: MSNBC Intv Req - 3p or 4p CT hour?

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Kim Stone Highland Park Councilwoman Kstone@cityhpil.com (847) 780-7432

On Jul 4, 2022, at 1:09 PM, Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Councilmember Stone,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely,

Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri

Booking Producer Deadline: White House

Mobile:

Marci.Santiaro@nbcuni.com

From:

Sigman, Stacy <ssigman@northfieldil.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:17 PM

To:

Ghida Neukirch

Subject:

Tragedy

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Ghida,

My thoughts are with you on this tragic day. I can't imagine what you must be going through. I know my emergency teams are there alongside yours but please know there is nothing the Village of Northfield won't do to help.

If there is anything you need, do not hesitate to call me and I will make it happen.

Stacy

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nancy Mills

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:18 PM

To: Karen Reisin

Cc: Terri Olian; Ashley Kelly, Amy Small; Ali Barnett; Alyssa Knobel; Betsy Brint; Bobbie

Hinden; Bruce Sperling; Cookie Kohn; Craig Leva; Cristina Mota; David Hoffman; David Israel; David L. Reich; Deb Cogan; Deborah Finn; Donald Stewart; Emily Nasatir; Eric Ephraim; Eric Zoberman; Erik Gimbel; Ginny Schulte; Heather Sher; James Hospodarsky; Jamie Strait Muller; Jean Meadows; Jennifer Aiello; Joe Reinstein; Joey Bleiman; Jon Levey; Julie Kraff; Kevin Ryan; Larry Block; Levin, Laurie; Patty Pell; Richard Cortesi; Robyn Schuster; Sallyan Windt; Simon Leibovich; Sofia I. Alvarez; Taryn Kessel; Tom Koulentes;

wrote:

**Tonia Arrington** 

Subject: Re: Note to All

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

We are safe, saddened, horrified and terrified. Sending love to all.

Nancy

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 4, 2022, at 12:00 PM, Karen Reisin

So saddened to hear what's going on there. We are out of town and thankful to hear you're all safe. Prayers to all.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 4, 2022, at 10:48 AM, Terri Olian <a href="mailto:terri@hpcfil.org">terri@hpcfil.org</a> wrote:

Everyone's thoughts, words, and prayers are greatly appreciated. There really is no way to fully express the sorrow we are all feeling. Stay safe everyone. Hugs to all.

Terri Olian

Executive Director, Highland Park Community Foundation

classical of 847-433-4100 •□ terri@hpcfil.org •□ www.hpcfil.org
Give Where You Live! Donate here or by mail (P.O. Box 398, Highland Park, IL 60035). Click here for more options!

Click <u>here</u> to recommend a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund if you are a client of Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, or BNY Mellon

### Celebrating 30 years of making a difference, 1992-2022!

Together, we will continue to improve the lives of individuals and enhance our community as a whole!

On Mon, Jul 4, 2022, at 11:42 AM, Ashley Kelly wrote: Sending love to all, this is such a sad, horrific day

On Mon, Jul 4, 2022 at 10:39 AM Amy Small wrote:

Thank goodness!

Amy Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 4, 2022, at 7:13 PM, Terri Olian < terri@hpcfil.org > wrote:

Dear All,

As many of you know, there was a horrible shooting today at Highland Park's 4th of July parade. I am deeply shocked and upset.

At this point we have heard there were multiple victims. As information becomes available we will better know how we as a Foundation can offer help to the victims and our community.

All members who participated with the HPCF in the parade are safe.

Sending love to all of you.

Betsy

Terri Olian

Executive Director, Highland Park

Community Foundation

•□ o 847-433-

4100 •□ terri@hpcfil.org •□ www.hpcfil.org
Give Where You Live! Donate here or by mail (P.O. Box
398, Highland Park, IL 60035). Click here for
more options!

Click <u>here</u> to recommend a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund if you are a client of Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, or BNY Mellon

Celebrating 30 years of making a difference, 1992-2022! Together, we will continue to improve the lives of individuals and enhance our community as a whole!

From:

Giaimo, Melissa < Melissa. Giaimo@cnn.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:18 PM

To:

Civitello, Amanda

Cc:

Berger, Debbie

Subject:

Re: CNN / Situation Room: Police Chief Lou Jogmen (Today, 4-6 CT)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Amanda,

Thanks again for your help. I look forward to hearing back from you in about an hour if any city official (Mayor, City Manager, Chief Jogmen, or anyone else you may be able to offer) can join us today between 4-6P CT for an interview (via phone or virtual).

While today is certainly the priority with breaking news, please also keep us on your list for same hours tomorrow.

Once again, my cell is

**MELISSA GIAIMO** 

Senior Editorial Producer "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer"

+1-202-351-4406 work melissa giaimo @cnn.com

From: Civitello, Amanda <acivitello@cityhpil.com>

Date: Monday, July 4, 2022 at 1:36 PM

To: Giaimo, Melissa < Melissa. Giaimo@cnn.com>

Cc: Berger, Debbie <debbie.berger@warnermedia.com>

Subject: Re: CNN / Situation Room: Police Chief Lou Jogmen (Today, 4-6 CT)

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments** 

Hi Melissa,

Thank you for your kind words of support. I will connect with Mayor Rotering and City Manager Neukirch and follow up with you shortly.

A press briefing will be held at 12:45 PM at Fire Station #33, 1130 Central Ave.

I may be reached on my personal phone at I lost my work phone in the incident and will not be able to respond at the number you typically have on file for me.
Thank you.
Amanda Civitello
Communications Manager
City of Highland Park
1707 St Johns Avenue
Highland Park, Illinois 60035
847.926.1043
acivitello@cityhpil.com
cityhpil.com
From: Giaimo, Melissa <melissa.giaimo@cnn.com> Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 12:11 PM To: Civitello, Amanda Cc: Berger, Debbie Subject: CNN / Situation Room: Police Chief Lou Jogmen (Today, 4-6 CT)</melissa.giaimo@cnn.com>
[EXTERNAL EMAIL]
Hi Amanda,

Can we request an interview with Mayor Nancy Rotering? Police Chief Lou Jogmen? Please advise if you can assist or if there's another person handling police.

The Situation Room is live 4-6 CT / 5-7 ET. Brianna Keilar is in for Wolf.

We could do an interview virtually (CISCO or SKYPE) or could consider phone interview.

### MELISSA GIAIMO

Senior Editorial Producer "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer"

+1-202-351-4406 work

melissa.ciaimo@cnn.com

From:

Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:18 PM

To:

Stone, Kim

Cc:

Neukirch, Ghida

Subject:

RE: MSNBC Intv Req - 3p or 4p CT hour?

### [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thank you for the connection Councilwoman!

Hi Manager Neukrich – If Mayor Rotering, Councilwoman Stone or any other city official is available – we'd be very grateful to have them in either the 3p or 4p CT hour with Alicia Menendez. Thank you.

From: Stone, Kim <kstone@cityhpil.com> Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 2:16 PM

To: Santiago, Marci (NBCUniversal) < Marci.Santiago@nbcuni.com>

Cc: Neukirch, Ghida <gneukirch@cityhpil.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: MSNBC Intv Req - 3p or 4p CT hour?

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Hi Councilmember Stone,

Are you available to join MSNBC anchor Alicia Menendez for an interview either in the 3pm or 4p CT hour? We could conduct it by phone or via Skype/ZOOM/FaceTime. We'll discuss the latest known about the shooting and what is needed by the community.

Thank you for your time and our condolences on this horrific event.

Sincerely, Marci

Marci Santiago Pusateri

Booking Producer
Deadline: White House
Mobile:

Marci.Şantiago@nbcuni.com

From:

Byon, Irene (NBCUniversal) < irene.byon@nbcuni.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:19 PM

To:

Civitello, Amanda

Subject:

RE: NBC News//Highland Park Shooting

### [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

So sorry, one other quick question~ are you helping with Highland Park PD press inquiries as well? In addition to the live request for the TODAY Show tomorrow morning, would anyone be available to do a pre-tape interview with our anchor Tom Llamas today?

I know you must be fielding so many calls and requests right now, so thank you so much for taking time to read this email!

I can also be reached at 619-200-1695.

Thank you so much!

From: Byon, Irene (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:55 PM

To: Civitello, Amanda <acivitello@cityhpil.com>
Subject: RE: NBC News//Highland Park Shooting

Thank you so much, Amanda.

We hope you are all safe.

Would mayor Rotering or any city official be able to join the TODAY Show tomorrow morning live?

I am happy to help facilitate and answer any questions you may have!

IRENT BYON | BOOKING PRODUCER | \*\*\* . NRC NEWS |

From: Civitello, Amanda <acivitello @cityhpil.com>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:38 PM

To: Byon, Irene (NBCUniversal) < irene.byon@nbcuni.com > Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: NBC News//Highland Park Shooting

Hi Irene,

Thank you for your kind words of support. I will be sure to add you to my media list. Please find below a copy of our most recent media release.

A press briefing will be held at 12:45 PM at Fire Station #33, 1130 Central Ave.

I may be reached on my personal phone at I lost my work phone in the incident and will not be able to respond at the number you typically have on file for me.

Thank you.

### Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

**Highland Park**, **Illinois** — Highland Park Police are responding to an active shooter incident that occurred in downtown Highland Park during the 4th of July parade. This is an active incident. All individuals are advised to shelter in place. Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect; evidence of a firearm has been recovered. Numerous law enforcement officers are responding and have secured a perimeter around downtown Highland Park. **19** people have been transferred to the hospital; **5** individuals are confirmed deceased.

More information will be posted to <u>cityhpil.com</u> as it becomes available.

Amanda Civitello
Communications Manager

City of Highland Park 1707 St Johns Avenue Highland Park, Illinois 60035

847.926.1043

ac<u>ivitello@c</u>ityhpil.com cityhpil.com

From: Byon, Irene (NBCUniversal) < irene.b /on@nbcuni.com>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 11:52:17 AM

To: Civitello, Amanda

Subject: NBC News//Highland Park Shooting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Amanda,

My name is Irene and I'm with NBC's TODAY Show and Nightly News. I'm so sorry to be reaching out to you under these circumstances.

We are thinking of your city and community.

I'm sure you are very busy with everything that's going on, but I hope to keep in touch with you and the mayor's office for the latest information and interview inquiries.

I would love to be added to an email distribution list for media as well.

Thank you so much and I hope you are safe!

Sincerely, Irene

IRENE BYON | BOOKING PRODUCER - \*\* NEC NEWS | C

From:

djensen@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:20 PM

To:

rkanapareddy@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Shooting

Ramesh,

If the police would like a higher vantage point we can make the water tower roof available.

Don

Don Jensen

From:

Amanda Zarobsky <ABZAROBSKY@FBI.GOV>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:20 PM

To:

Cynthia Plaza (cplazas@cityhpil.com)

Subject: Shooter

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Cynthia,

FYSA I am here at the FBI command post. Feel free to call to coordinate

Amanda B. Zarobsky, LCSW

Victim Specialist, FBI Chicago Division, North RA, Rockford RA 1375 E Woodfield Rd. Ste. 300. Schaumburg, IL 60173

She/Her, abzarobsky@fbi.gov.

(o) 847-734-9818 (c)

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From:

Immaculate Conception Parish <parishmanager@icparish.org>

Sent:

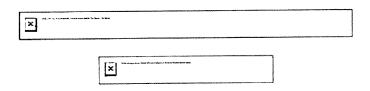
Monday, July 4, 2022 1:21 PM

To: Subject: cglasco@cityhpil.com Prayer for July 4th violence

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



Heavenly Father, You are the God of refuge in times of trouble, and so we pray for all victims of today's shooting. We pray that You bring comfort for *all* in our time of grief, consolation and peace in this time of great sorrow. We will continue our prayerful support and pray that every victim of today's violence will find strength in Your Love.

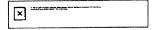


Immaculate Conception Parish | 770 Deerfield Road, Highland Parl , IL 60035

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From:

BigMuddyRiverNews < bigmuddyrivernews@cchrstl.org >

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:21 PM

To: Cc:

Isweet@suntimes.com; mramos@suntimes.com; lisa.chavarria@nbcuni.com jgallagher@northshore.org; police@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com;

ISP. Safety. Education @illinois.gov; is p. contact @illinois.gov

Subject:

As Nation Reels From Mass Violence, CCHR Calls For Mandatory Toxicology Tests

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

# The Big Muddy River Newsletter

-brought to you by

Citizens Commission on Human Rights® of St. Louis, Inc.

Established in 1969 by the Church of Scientology to investigate and expose psychiatric violations of human rights

Go to the CCHR STL Blog. Subscribe to this newsletter.

6/6/2022 "When in doubt, tell the truth." Mark Twain, 1835-1910

Are you enraged by the pervasive abuse of human rights by the psychiatric mental health care industry? Does this incite you to action? If you know of people who have been harmed by a psychiatrist or by a psychiatric facility, encourage them to file a complaint. If you have information about a crime committed by a psychiatrist or a psychiatric facility, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately as well as filing a complaint.

# As Nation Reels From Mass Violence, CCHR Calls For Mandatory **Toxicology Tests**

Mental health watchdog joins others in wanting answers to what drives individuals to commit horrific, senseless acts of violence; toxicology tests should be part of every investigation into such acts.

By CCHR International [References are provided in the CCHR INT publication.] The Mental Health Industry Watchdog May 30, 2022

As the country reels in the wake of another tragic shooting, the Citizens Commission on Human Rights International joins in sending condolences to the families of lost children and teachers. And, like many others, it questions what

could have triggered the mindset of the alleged killer, an issue that needs responding to if we are to truly face preventing more tragedies like this and provide grieving families and the nation with answers.

Media quote experts saying that such individuals are "mentally disturbed," or have "untreated mental illness," but that doesn't explain the level of violence we are seeing or what drives a person to pull a trigger. At the very minimum, CCHR says, mandatory toxicology tests should be required in each deadly incident to determine any prescription or illicit drug use, especially as today, most psychotropic drugs can be purchased from rogue online pharmacies, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Students abuse prescription drugs, with some 2.8 million teen students engaging in illicit drug use. Estimates are that up to 20% of college students abuse prescription stimulants alone.

A review of scientific literature published in Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry regarding the "astonishing rate" of mental illness over the past 50 years revealed that it's not "mental illness" linked to increased acts of violence, but, rather, the psychiatric drugs prescribed to treat it.

"There is no evidence the shooter is mentally ill, just angry and hateful," said Lori Post, director of the Buehler Center for Health Policy and Economics at the Northwestern University School of Medicine. "While it is understandable that most people cannot fathom slaughtering small children and want to attribute it to mental health, it is very rare for a mass shooter to have a diagnosed mental health condition."

One thing is for sure, the country's mental health system has been an abject failure and investing more in it is not prevention but part of the problem. Listing 20 high profile mass killings since the Columbine High School shooting in Colorado in 1999, or 19 since 2007, including two mass shootings in May this year, in 85% of the cases (17 of 20) or 89% since 2007, there was a potential history of mental health services or current taking of, or withdrawal from, prescription psychotropic drugs involved. In only several of the cases was a toxicology report mentioned.

The FDA's Adverse Event Reporting System reports that at least 31 out of 484 medications are disproportionately associated with violence, which includes 25 psychotropic drugs. This includes eleven antidepressants, six sedative/hypnotics and three drugs for treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The specific cases of violence included: homicide, physical assaults, physical abuse, homicidal ideation, and cases described as violence-related symptoms.

Experts have consistently raised concerns about this:

"The irritability and impulsivity" from antidepressants, for example, "can make

people suicidal or homicidal." – Harvard Medical School psychiatrist Joseph Glenmullen

"The link between antidepressants and violence, including suicide and homicide, is well established." – Patrick D. Hahn, affiliate professor of biology at Loyola University Maryland

"Violence and other potentially criminal behavior caused by prescription drugs are medicine's best kept secret." – Professor David Healy, leading psychopharmacology expert and professor of psychiatry in Wales

In a study published in the *British Medical Journal*, in January 2016, Prof. Peter C. Gøtzsche and other researchers reported: "Perpetrators of school shootings and similar events have often been reported to be users of antidepressants...." Antidepressants, including the use of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) and Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs), put at risk the lives of individuals prescribed them. Reviewing numerous studies of five different antidepressants, they found there was a doubling of the risk for both aggressive behavior and suicidality for children and adolescents.

The use of psychotropic drugs in schools is so rife in the U.S. that in 2004, a Prohibition of Mandatory Medication Amendment was necessary when it was discovered that, astoundingly, parents were being threatened with criminal child abuse charges if they refused to put their school-aged child on a psychotropic drug as a requisite for their education, or took them off it.

It is the sudden change in behavior that prompts questions in potential drugtaking. Salvador Romas, responsible for the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas raises questions on why Ramos, experienced sudden behavior changes. Authorities have said Ramos had no known criminal or mental health history. But no toxicology test has been done to determine if he'd acquired or had taken any psychotropic substance—licit or illicit.

Ramos had been a student at Uvalde High School but he dropped out of school and was not on track to graduate this year. It is unclear what social services he may have undergone given the number of police visits to his home. He apparently had a history of being "the nicest kid, the shyest kid," according to a friend, but was bullied for stuttering. "He would get bullied hard, like bullied by a lot of people," a school friend, Mr. Stephen Garcia said. "Over social media, over gaming, over everything."

His behavior had apparently recently begun to deteriorate, with him admitting to cutting his face with a knife over and over for fun. About a year ago, Ramos posted on social media photos of automatic rifles he would have on his wish list. The teen had hinted on social media that an attack could be coming, one state senator told reporters. "He suggested the kids should watch out," a lawmaker said.

In the wake of the Sante Fe High School shooting in 2018 that left eight students and two teachers dead, the Texas Senate approved a school safety bill to prevent another such tragedy from happening. It established threat assessment teams to help implement safe ways to identify dangerous students. Every Texas district is required to have a behavioral threat assessment team tasked with preventing horrific acts like the Uvalde shooting at local schools. Of the 1,022 total districts – 80% (818) reported their board of trustees established a team. Of the 818 districts that reported establishing a behavioral threat assessment team, over 90% reported members appointed to their behavioral threat assessment team and were expert in behavior management (793), special education (n = 790), counseling (n = 783), and mental health/substance use (n = 746).

Unfortunately, like mental health services, behavioral threat assessment is not based on science, but mostly conjecture and such an inexact "science" means prediction can be futile. In the sample of 20 cases cited here, it was unclear how many may have been involved in social media well in advance of the act of mass violence. One "Big Brother" program in the U.S. scans billions of social media posts for indications of harm and violence, and relays messages in near-real time to safety and security professionals. It uses a software program that can examine language written on posts. It reaps the company up to \$5 million a year in revenue.

Even an article on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in *Psychiatry Online* pointed out that "Computer-generated recommendations may carry a false authority that would override expert human judgment" and "raises false hopes that machines will explain the mysteries of mental health and mental illness." However, the real point is that psychiatry and psychology's ability to diagnose any mental disorder is not based on science but on arbitrary whims that AI can only exacerbate this.

The use of AI and acceptance of AI and Applications (Apps) in mental health could contribute to the problem. AI is now marketed as a means to "prevent" or quickly identify the "growing" numbers of people, including children and youths, said to be mentally ill. Add to this, surging digitalization and growing smartphone & internet use increase the use of mental health apps. Peter Foltz, a research professor at the Institute of Cognitive Science stated: "Language is a critical pathway to detecting patient mental states," says Foltz. "Using mobile devices and AI, we are able to track patients daily and monitor these subtle changes."

AI identifies and diagnoses from speech patterns of young children and says it can monitor everything from their googling, texting, Facebook use and Twitter. One system asserts it can detect cyber-bullying, self-harm and grief sentiments in students' emails and in Google/OneDrive. There is no standardized process for evaluating the validity of such research.

"It's a recipe for disaster," said Ann Cavoukian, the distinguished expert-in-

residence leading the Privacy by Design Centre of Excellence at Ryerson University in Toronto. "I say that as a psychologist. The feeling of constantly being watched or monitored is the last thing you want."

No amount of money expended on mental health services could have prevented what occurred in Texas. In 2021, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) received more than \$210 million in federal emergency grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for mental health and substance use disorder services. For the 2022 fiscal year, Texas Community Mental Health Grant programs saw increased funding of \$2,910,409. For the same budget period, federal funding increased by \$41,103,876. The 2022-23 budget has a projected \$8.1 billion for mental health services.

Mental health screening and surveys in schools have notoriously been criticized for lack of science and validity. The late Karen Effrem, M.D., a renowned pediatrician and researcher, found that increased screening results in "the increased psychiatric drugging of children and adolescents," with significant evidence of "harmful, if not fatal side effects, including suicide, violence, psychosis, hallucinations, diabetes, and movement disorders."

Drug proponents argue that there are many shootings and acts of violence that have not been correlated to psychiatric drugs, but that is exactly the point. It has neither been confirmed nor refuted, as law enforcement is not required to investigate or report on prescribed drugs linked to violence, and media rarely pose the question. This is one reason why compulsory toxicology testing should occur and record of any drugs found added to all databases on acts of mass violence.

Read CCHR's comprehensive report, <u>Psychiatric Drugs Create Violence and Suicide</u>.

Moritz Farbstein
Public Affairs Director
Citizens Commission on Human Rights® of St. Louis
P.O. Box 300256
St. Louis, MO 63130-9256
www.CCHRSTL.org
CCHRSTL@CCHRSTL.ORG
https://www.facebook.com/cchrstl/

Today, with militaries of the world awash in psychiatry and psychiatric drugs, 23 soldiers and veterans are committing suicide every day.

X

Psychiatrists say we need more psychiatry. But should we trust them? Or is psychiatry the hidden enemy?

Featuring interviews with over 80 soldiers and experts, this penetrating documentary shatters the facade to reveal the real culprits who are destroying our world's militaries from within.

Watch The Hidden Enemy - Inside Psychiatry's Hidden Agenda.



Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) - Psychiatry's Deadliest Scam

The DSM - a house of cards - an elaborate pseudoscientific sham.

Using it, psychiatrists can enforce psychiatric drugging, seize your children and even take away your most precious personal freedoms.

Watch this documentary DVD to find out the shocking truth behind psychiatry's deadliest scam. Show the DVD to your family, friends, schools, church groups, clubs, etc.

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Citizens Commission on Human Rights STL

# Public Service Announcement **PSYCHIATRY KILLS**

Have you or someone you know ever been abused or harmed by psychiatric or other mental health treatment?

Report psychiatric abuse - it's a crime!

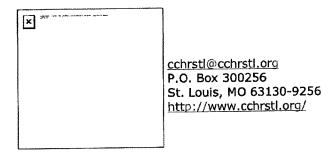
Be a Hero

# Help someone who has been a victim of psychiatric abuse - make a tax deductible donation to CCHR St. Louis!

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From:

Andrew Lichterman, ICMA-CM <alichterman@deerfield.il.us>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:21 PM

To: Subject: Jason, Erin Fwd: Update

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

FYI. We are releasing the statement below encouraging folks to call the FBI Tip Line.



#### Andrew Lichterman, ICMA-CM

Asst Village Manager / Dir of Community Development | Village of Deerfield 850 Waukegan Rd | Deerfield, IL 60015 847.719.7403

Follow Us:

From: David Fitzgerald <dfitzgerald@deerfield.il.us>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:18 PM

To: Andrew Lichterman, ICMA-CM <alichterman@deerfield.il.us>

Subject: Update 1

The Deerfield Police Department is assisting Highland Park in the search for today's shooter. The suspect is still at large. Please be cautious and stay indoors, if possible. Report any suspicious activity you see to the Deerfield Police Department at 911. If you have any information about the shooting, call the FBI Tip Line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324). Updates will be provided as additional information becomes available. Our thoughts go out to all those impacted by this senseless shooting.

David Fitzgerald

Communications Coordinator Extension 7400

From:

Coakley, John <JCoakley@warrenville.il.us>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:22 PM

To:

Ghida Neukirch

Subject:

Hope you're doing ok

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Ghida: I just saw the news about the horrible shooting in your town.

Hang in there and let me know if there is anything you need.

J. Coakley

Palbitska, Ashley		
From: Sent: To: Subject:	Monday, July 4, 2022 1:22 PM police@cityhpil.com Parade area	
[EXTERNAL EMAIL]		
Hello,		
First, I want to thank all the polic	e, fire and other first responders for all you do.	
Unfortunately my wife and I were Luckily we were able to run away	e at the parade this morning and were sitting a 1/2 a block away from Central & 2nd. and meet with family several blocks away.	
Our SUV is parked on 2nd St, abo	ut 3-4 cars north of Central. It is a Gray Lexus NX300. License	
f you need it moved out of the w	ay please let me know and I can get the key fob to you.	
My mobile #		
itay safe.		
incerely,		

# Palbitska, Ashley Village of Deerfield < listserv@civicplus.com> From: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:23 PM Sent: rsabo@cityhpil.com To: Highland Park Incident Update Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] **Highland Park Incident Update** The Deerfield Police Department is assisting Highland Park in the search for today's shooter. The suspect is still at large. Please be cautious and stay indoors, if possible. Report any suspicious activity you see to the Deerfield Police Department at 911. If you have any information about the shooting, call the FBI Tip Line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324). Updates will be provided as additional information becomes available. Our thoughts go out to all those impacted by this senseless shooting. Stay Informed on Village Board Meetings Do you want to stay up-to-date on what the Village Board will be discussing at meetings? Click here to view upcoming agendas, previous agendas and meeting minutes for the Board of Trustees and other Village boards and commissions Share via Email Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

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From:

Anne E. Schwartz <invitations@linkedin.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:23 PM

To:

Chris O'Neill

Subject:

Chris, please add me to your LinkedIn network

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]







### Anne E. Schwartz

Bestselling Author "Monster: The True Story of the Jeffrey Dahmer Murders," Criminal Justice, Crisis, CounterTerrorism/CVE **Communications Strategist** Milwaukee, WI



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Deborah C.

**Emergency Communications Supervisor at** City of Naperville

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**Melody Rissman** 

Police Sergeant at City of Wood Dale

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This email was intended for Chris O'Neill (Patrol Commander at Highland Park Police Department)

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From:

Duch, Sophall <sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:24 PM

To:

'police@cityhpil.com'

Cc:

Omstead, Meredith; Gavros, Simone

Subject:

Canada's CTV News Channel - Interview Request - Mon. July 4th

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

This is Sophall, a producer for CTV News Channel in Canada.

Is a Highland Park police department official available for an interview with CTV News Channel today?

We would like to get an update on the Highland Park active shooter incident today.

Hopefully a live interview via Skype or FaceTime can work for you.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Sophall

Sophall Duch | Chase Producer, CTV's Power Play

m(

sophall.duch@bellmedia.ca | @soduch

100 Queen Street, Suite 1400 Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9

GHV

From: Deerfield News stserv@civicplus.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:25 PM

To: rsabo@cityhpil.com

Subject: New News Flash Highland Park Incident Update for Deerfield, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

View this in your browser

July 04. 2022

# **Highland Park Incident Update**

The Deerfield Police Department is assisting Highland Park in the search for today's shooter. Report any suspicious activity to the Deerfield Police at 911. If... Read on

You are receiving this message because you are subscribed to Deerfield News on www.deerfield.il.us. To unsubscribe, click the following link:

From:

Kevin Lahner <klahner@waukesha-wi.gov>

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:26 PM gneukirch@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Parade Help from Waukesha

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

#### Ghida:

I know you are in the midst of responding to the terrible events today. I am writing to offer my assistance as you proceed forward. I ran the City of Waukesha's Emergency Operations during our tragic events last Christmas and

have been participating in a variety of after action reviews. If you would like my assistance, consultation or advice I am happy to help. Please feel free to reach out. I can be reached on my cell at the consultation or this email address.

Kevin Lahner City Administrator City of Waukesha

Notice: Please be aware that email sent to, or received from, the City of Waukesha should be presumed to be a public record, that it will be retained by the City as a public record, and will be subject to public disclosure under Wisconsin's open records law. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, please do not read it or forward it to another person, but notify the sender and then delete it.

From: ljogmen@cityhpil.com

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:27 PM

To: fldepodesta@fbi.gov
Subject: Request for assistance

Per our conversation I am formally requesting assistance from the FBI to facilitate our investigation into the shooting which occurred in our City today at approximately 1010am.

Please let me know if you require additional information.

Highland Park Police Dept.

From:

Brian Conner

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:27 PM

To: Subject: ljogmen@cityhpil.com suspect description

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

#### Really?

We are going to pretend all you have is "male appearing to be 18-20 years of age"?

no race info?

clothing info?

directional info?

no build info?

no hair info?

no height info?

no explicit statement confirming you legitimately have very limited info or severely contradicting info?

Why does this make me believe that the suspect is almost certainly not the ethnic demographic that makes up 94% of your city???

Why do I think he is a member of the ethnic demographic that frankly has committed every one of the mass shootings in the Chicago metro area in the last 15 years...The demographic that commits at least one mass shooting every Friday and/or Saturday night in Chicago...

From:

Paul Fetherston < Paul. Fetherston@Greeleygov.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:27 PM

To:

'Meschuk, Chris'; 'gneukirch@cityhpil.com'

Subject:

City of Boulder Contact

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good Afternoon Ghida,

As a former Highland Park resident and Lake County Assistant County Administrator, my thoughts are with you and the community at this time.

I wanted to connect you with Chris Meschuk, a City of Boulder Deputy City Manager who was also the Interim City Manager during the King Sooper mass shooting in March of 2021. I thought it might be a useful resource to you and your team as you move through the response and recovery phases of this terrible tragedy.

Chris's cell phone is

and he is copied on this email.

Please let me know if there is any way I can be of assistance.

Regards,

Paul

Paul J. Fetherston

Deputy City Manager, Enterprise Resources
City Manager's Office
1000 10<sup>th</sup> Street Greeley, CO 80631
970-350-9730 | Paul.Fetherston@greeleygov.com

www.greelevgov.com

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>
Sent: Monday July 4, 2022 1:20 PM

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov;

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jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc: Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings

Attachments: BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

# **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

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-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

## **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
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# MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. <u>That is the opposite of what should be happening</u>.
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- -- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate -- to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

## **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- ASK the families what THEY want instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- -- In the past, hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

# **HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:**

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

### FIRST RESPONDERS:

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

# **OTHER ISSUES:**

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

# **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
- -- Establish a social media presence so those in the community can send messages of love to the victims. Love to Aurora. Love to Orlando. Love to Las Vegas. Love to Parkland. Love to Santa Fe. It helps to actually see that others care.

# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

## THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- --Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- --Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
- --Mental support, especially if their family is small or they are far from home.
- --PTSD issues

Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

## LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

**To:** nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com;

fire@cityhpil.com; police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com; wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com;

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-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

## **FIRST RESPONDERS:**

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

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When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

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This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

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If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

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# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

### THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- --Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
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- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
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Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

# LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov; ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com; astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov; cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov;

jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc: Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings

Attachments: BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

--

Dr. Zachary Blair
Vice President
VictimsFirst
706-VICTIMS (842-8467)
http://www.victimsfirst.org
facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down -- until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

## **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

# **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. <u>That is the opposite of what should be happening</u>.
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate -- to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

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Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

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wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

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# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

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After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down -- until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

## **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

# **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. *That is the opposite of what should be happening.*
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# **SCHOOL CHILDREN**:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate — to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- ASK the families what THEY want instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- -- In the past, hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

# **HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:**

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

### FIRST RESPONDERS:

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. <u>Medical teams</u> need the same.

## **OTHER ISSUES:**

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

# **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
- -- Establish a social media presence so those in the community can send messages of love to the victims. Love to Aurora. Love to Orlando. Love to Las Vegas. Love to Parkland. Love to Santa Fe. It helps to actually see that others care.

# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- --Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

# THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- --Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- --Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
- -- Mental support, especially if their family is small or they are far from home.
- --PTSD issues

Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

# **LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov;

cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov;

jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc:Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier NavaSubject:VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass ShootingsAttachments:BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



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- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
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When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

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This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

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Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

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- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

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- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
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We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
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- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
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Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

# **LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From:

Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To:

nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov; ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

 $kait lin\_fahey @duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodes ide @duckworth.senate.gov; \\$ 

cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov;

jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc:

Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

Subject: Attachments:

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

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Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

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We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down -- until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

## **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

# **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. *That is the opposite of what should be happening.*
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- -- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate — to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- ASK the families what THEY want instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- -- In the past, hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

# **HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:**

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
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Last updated, May 2022

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**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

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wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

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jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc: Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings

Attachments: BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

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-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

### **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
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# MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. www.nonotoriety.com
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
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- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
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#### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- **ASK the families what THEY want** instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
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- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

#### FIRST RESPONDERS:

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

### **OTHER ISSUES:**

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

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#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
- -- Establish a social media presence so those in the community can send messages of love to the victims. Love to Aurora. Love to Orlando. Love to Las Vegas. Love to Parkland. Love to Santa Fe. It helps to actually see that others care.

# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

### THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- -- Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- --Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
- -- Mental support, especially if their family is small or they are far from home.
- --PTSD issues

\_\_\_\_\_

Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

### LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov;

 $cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov; \\$ 

jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc:Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier NavaSubject:VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass ShootingsAttachments:BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair
Vice President
VictimsFirst
706-VICTIMS (842-8467)
http://www.victimsfirst.org
facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

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The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

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# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

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- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

#### THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- -- Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
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- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
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- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
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Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

### LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

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Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; ischrage@cityhpil.com; ifontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov;

cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov;

jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc:Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier NavaSubject:VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass ShootingsAttachments:BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

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Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

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It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair
Vice President
VictimsFirst
706-VICTIMS (842-8467)
http://www.victimsfirst.org
facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

# **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

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The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down -- until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

### **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

# MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. *That is the opposite of what should be happening.*
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- -- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate — to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

#### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- **ASK the families what THEY want** instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- -- In the past, **hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims** (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

# **HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:**

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

#### **FIRST RESPONDERS:**

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

# **OTHER ISSUES:**

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

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Cc: Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings

Attachments: BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

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- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. www.nonotoriety.com
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Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
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- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
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#### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- **ASK the families what THEY want** instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
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- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

## FIRST RESPONDERS:

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When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

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This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

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Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

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- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
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# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

## THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- -- Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- --Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
- --Mental support, especially if their family is small or they are far from home.
- --PTSD issues

Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

## LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

 $kait lin\_fahey @duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside @duckworth.senate.gov; \\$ 

cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov; jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov;

jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc: Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject:VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass ShootingsAttachments:BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

**IEXTERNAL EMAILI** 

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down -- until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- -Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

### **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
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- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
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Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

## LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM
To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

 $\textbf{kaitlin\_fahey} @ duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside @ duckworth.senate.gov; \\$ 

cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov;

jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc: Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings
Attachments: BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

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-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

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## **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

## **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. <u>That is the opposite of what should be happening</u>.
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- -- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate — to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

#### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- ASK the families what THEY want instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- -- In the past, hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

# **HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:**

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

#### FIRST RESPONDERS:

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

## **OTHER ISSUES:**

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
- -- Establish a social media presence so those in the community can send messages of love to the victims. Love to Aurora. Love to Orlando. Love to Las Vegas. Love to Parkland. Love to Santa Fe. It helps to actually see that others care.

# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

# THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- --Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
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Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From:

WWilling@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:29 PM

To:

hpeskator@cityhpil.com

Subject:

**NEWS** 

Highland Park Fourth of July parade disrujeted by Funfire multiple people feared shot - Chicago Sun-Times (suntimes.com)

Have a Great day!

#### Walt Willing

Lead Operator, Water Production



# City of Highland Park

1707 St Johns Avenue Water Plant Highland Park, Illinois 60035

847-433-4355 Water Plant 847-926-1193 Fax

WWilling@cityhpil.com cityhpil.com







## Palbitska, Ashley

From:

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:29 PM

To:

police@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Re: Shooting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I got this video from Snapchat, hopefully this can be of assistance

12:59

Highwood, Illinois 2h ago by

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Katie Appel Duda <kduda@everytown.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:29 PM **To:** nrotering@cityhpil.com

Subject: Support from Everytown/Mayors Against Illegal Guns: Mass Shooting Protocol and

Resources linked here

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

#### Mayor Rotering -

We are seeing the news coming out of your community, and wanted to quickly share some resources that we know other mayors have found useful in the wake of a mass shooting.

Here is the mass shooting <u>protocol</u>, a short doc that focuses on the first 24 hours. Additionally, here's the <u>mass shooting playbook</u>. It's over 200 pages, but has a helpful index so you and your team can quickly jump to something you specifically need. It was developed in collaboration with mayors whose communities have experienced mass shootings.

Please let me know if there is anything else that Everytown and our network of volunteers can do to provide resources and support as you and your community respond to this tragedy. We are here to help.

Best- Katie Appel Duda

KATH. APPLL DEDA

STOCK OBSECCION OF A CLUMBER BY SECULAL ADVISOR TO THE RESE

KRUDA @ FVFRYTOWN, ORG 17-456-2888 @KatigAppelDuda

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TYPRYTOWN FOR GENERAL FY
EVERYTOWN,ORG - 31 VERY FOWN.

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**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov;

cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov;

jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

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- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

# **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. <u>That is the opposite of what should be happening</u>.
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
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In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

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#### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- **ASK** the families what THEY want instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
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-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

## **FIRST RESPONDERS:**

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

## <u>OTHER ISSUES:</u>

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

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#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
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# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

## THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- --Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- -- Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
- -- Mental support, especially if their family is small or they are far from home.
- --PTSD issues

----

Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

## **LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From:

Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

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police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; ischrage@cityhpil.com; ifontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

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ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov;

cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov; jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov;

jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casev.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc:

Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject: Attachments: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME, Updated 6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair
Vice President
VictimsFirst
706-VICTIMS (842-8467)
http://www.victimsfirst.org
facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down -- until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

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- --Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- --Pain management help from nerve pain.
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- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
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Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

## **LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; ischrage@cityhpil.com; ifontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaquidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

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cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov; jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov;

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casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc: Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings

Attachments: BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

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It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down -- until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

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- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

## **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. *That is the opposite of what should be happening*.
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate — to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

#### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- ASK the families what THEY want instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- -- In the past, **hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims** (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

# <u>HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:</u>

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

## **FIRST RESPONDERS:**

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

# **OTHER ISSUES:**

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
- -- Establish a social media presence so those in the community can send messages of love to the victims. Love to Aurora. Love to Orlando. Love to Las Vegas. Love to Parkland. Love to Santa Fe. It helps to actually see that others care.

# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

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After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. <u>That is the opposite of what should be happening</u>.
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#### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- **ASK the families what THEY want** instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
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- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

# **FIRST RESPONDERS:**

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

## **OTHER ISSUES:**

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When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

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This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

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Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
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# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

## THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- -- Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- --Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
- -- Mental support, especially if their family is small or they are far from home.
- --PTSD issues

Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

## LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; jschrage@cityhpil.com; jfontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

ablumberg@cityhpil.com; mholleman@cityhpil.com; alidawer@cityhpil.com;

astolberg@cityhpil.com; kstone@cityhpil.com; atapia@cityhpil.com;

kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov; benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov;

 $cameron\_joost@duckworth.senate.gov; clarisol\_duque@durbin.senate.gov;$ 

jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov; pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov; jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov; greg.claus@mail.house.gov;

casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc:Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier NavaSubject:VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass ShootingsAttachments:BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

--

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down — until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

## **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

# **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. www.nonotoriety.com
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

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Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

# LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

#### Palbitska, Ashley

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:28 PM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com; ljogmen@cityhpil.com; cityhp@cityhpil.com; fire@cityhpil.com;

police@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; ischrage@cityhpil.com; ifontane@cityhpil.com; clater@cityhpil.com;

wbonaguidi@cityhpil.com; joneill@cityhpil.com; info@repbobmorgan.com; ilsenate29

@gmail.com; pfrank@lakecountyil.gov; srummel@lakecountyil.gov;

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casey.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc: Anita Busch; David Bilu; Amanda Bean; Javier Nava

Subject: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings
Attachments: BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

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It is also available here: https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

## **FUNDRAISING:**

- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down — until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

## **FUNERALS:**

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- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated.
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# **MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:**

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. www.nonotoriety.com
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. *That is the opposite of what should be happening*.
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# **SCHOOL CHILDREN**:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate — to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

#### **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- ASK the families what THEY want instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- -- In the past, hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

## **HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:**

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

## FIRST RESPONDERS:

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

#### <u>OTHER ISSUES:</u>

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
- -- Establish a social media presence so those in the community can send messages of love to the victims. Love to Aurora. Love to Orlando. Love to Las Vegas. Love to Parkland. Love to Santa Fe. It helps to actually see that others care.

# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- -- Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

## THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- -- Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- --Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
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- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
- After the mass casualty crime, property will be confiscated. This creates its own issues for victims in regards to needing phones, medical equipment, etc. After the investigation, property will be returned. For families of the deceased, it is an excruciatingly hard day. If there is a trial, it will be longer. But, please coordinate with trauma specialists for survivors on these days.

# **SCHOOL CHILDREN:**

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate — to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records. In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

## **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- ASK the families what THEY want instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- In the past, hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

# **HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:**

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

### FIRST RESPONDERS:

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

## OTHER ISSUES:

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
- -- Establish a social media presence so those in the community can send messages of love to the victims. Love to Aurora. Love to Orlando. Love to Las Vegas. Love to Parkland. Love to Santa Fe. It helps to actually see that others care.

# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amoutations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

#### THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- -- Prosthetics
- -- Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- -- Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- -- Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
- -- Mental support, especially if their family is small or they are far from home.
- --PTSD issues

Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

## LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

> Don Jensen

From:	rkanapareddy@cityhpil.com
Sent:	Monday, July 4, 2022 1:33 PM
To:	djensen@cityhpil.com
Subject:	Re: Shooting
Ok thanks, I believe th	e suspects are on the run.
Prayers for families wl	no lost their loved ones.
Thanks	
Ramesh Kanapareddy,	P.E., CFM
Asst. City Manager/Di	r. of Public Works
> On Jul 4, 2022, at 1:1	L9 PM, Jensen, Don <djensen@cityhpil.com> wrote:</djensen@cityhpil.com>
>	
> Ramesh,	
>	
> If the police would li	ke a higher vantage point we can make the water tower roof available
>	
> Don	

From: rkanapareddy@cityhpil.com

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:34 PM

To: hgilmore@reltd.com

Cc: egomez@cityhpil.com; rbannon@cityhpil.com

**Subject:** Re: Highland Park shooting: Reports of 5 dead at parade

Thanks Harry. Staff is okay.

Prayers for families who lost their loved ones.

Thanks

Ramesh Kanapareddy, P.E., CFM Asst. City Manager/Dir. of Public Works

On Jul 4, 2022, at 1:14 PM, Harry Gilmore <a href="mailto:hgilmore@reltd.com">hgilmore@reltd.com</a> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I pray that you are all safe!

Harry L. Gilmore, Jr. Sent From My I-Phone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chicago Tribune <chicagotribune@nsl.chicagotribune.com>

**Date:** July 4, 2022 at 12:44:35 PM CDT **To:** Harry Gilmore <a href="mailto:hgilmore@reltd.com">hgilmore@reltd.com</a>

Subject: Highland Park shooting: Reports of 5 dead at parade Reply-To: "chicagotribune@nsl.chicagotribune.com" <chicagotribune-

HP2v600000181ca505519c1e700f4bbcf76f8036@nsl.chicagotribune.com>

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X

JULY 4, 2022

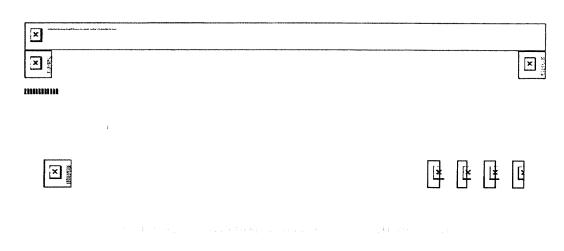
**BREAKING NEWS** 

# Highland Park shooting: 'It was chaotic,' reports of 5 dead, 16 others shot during Fourth of July parade

More than a dozen people were shot Monday morning, at least five of them fatally, about 10 minutes into the northern suburb's Fourth of July parade, according to police and witnesses.

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From:

gneukirch@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:36 PM

To: Cc:

Paul.Fetherston@greeleygov.com MeschukC@bouldercolorado.gov

Subject:

Re: City of Boulder Contact

Thank you!!

Ghida S. Neukirch City Manager City of Highland Park

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 4, 2022, at 1:27 PM, Paul Fetherston < Paul. Fetherston@greeleygov.com > wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good Afternoon Ghida,

As a former Highland Park resident and Lake County Assistant County Administrator, my thoughts are with you and the community at this time.

I wanted to connect you with Chris Meschuk, a City of Boulder Deputy City Manager who was also the Interim City Manager during the King Sooper mass shooting in March of 2021. I thought it might be a useful resource to you and your team as you move through the response and recovery phases of this terrible tragedy.

Chris's cell phone is and he is copied on this email.

Please let me know if there is any way I can be of assistance.

Regards,

Paul



#### Paul J. Fetherston

Deputy City Manager, Enterprise Resources City Manager's Office 1000 10<sup>th</sup> Street Greeley, CO 80631 970-350-9730 | <u>Paul.Fetherston@greeleygov.com</u> <u>www.greeleygov.com</u>

From: Sent:

To:

To: Subject: Attachments: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:38 PM

police@cityhpil.com Video of parade IMG\_168849807.MOV

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

From:

sneuman@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:39 PM

To:

Dan.Thomas@illinois.gov

Subject:

FW: Video of HP parade

Attachments:

IMG\_138967381.MOV

Steve Neuman Patrol Sergeant

Highland Park Police Department 1677 Old Deerfield Rd. Highland Park, IL 60035

Main: 847 432-7730 Direct: 847 926-1121 Fax: 847 432-2024

From:

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:08 PM

To: Neuman, Steven

Subject: Video of HP parade

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

There doesn't appear to be footage of the shooter, but it's relevant as to the number of gunshots.

From:

sneuman@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:39 PM

To:

Dan.Thomas@illinois.gov

Subject:

FW: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

Steve Neuman Patrol Sergeant

Highland Park Police Department 1677 Old Deerfield Rd. Highland Park, IL 60035

Main: 847 432-7730 Direct: 847 926-1121 Fax: 847 432-2024

From: Jason, Erin

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 12:48 PM

To: All Users

Subject: Information on Incident at Today's 4th of July Parade

All-

First and foremost we want to let you know that all City employees are physically okay. EPA information will be distributed under separate cover from HR.

The following press release was just circulated:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 4, 2022

Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

Highland Park, Illinois – Highland Park Police are responding to an active shooter incident that occurred in downtown Highland Park during the 4th of July parade. This is an active incident. All individuals are advised to shelter in place. Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect; evidence of a firearm has been recovered. Numerous law enforcement officers are responding and have secured a perimeter around downtown Highland Park. 19 people have been transferred to the hospital; 5 individuals are confirmed deceased.

More information will be posted to cityhpil.com as it becomes available.

Please follow the City website for future updates.

Thank you and stay safe, Erin

Erin K. Jason
Assistant City Manager, City of Highland Park

From:

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:40 PM

ljogmen@cityhpil.com

Subject:

SHOOTING TODAY: HATEFUL KIDS FROM DISTRICT

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/highland-park/ct-hpn-snapchat-videos-racial-slurs-tl-0125-20180119-story.html

Palbitska, Ashley	
From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Monday, July 4, 2022 1:40 PM  police@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com; gneukirch@cityhpil.com  Re: Suspect of shooting potential truck
[EXTERNAL EMAIL]	
Saturday the 2nd, no	ot 3rd.
Sent from my iPhone	•
> On Jul 4, 2022, at 1 > > Hi,	.2:45 PM, wrote:
central and saw wha the corner. Live in HI >	o share this with but on Saturday the 3rd maybe between 10:45 and 11:15am I was driving down t felt like a VERY out of place pickup truck with MAGA stickers parked right outside Uncle Dans at 2 so know the demographics and what feels normal and what doesn't.
> If you have surveill	ance tape, that may be worth checking.

> Sent from my iPhone

From:

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:41 PM

To:

bbonev@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Short video

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Brian,

I doubt this helps anyone but a short video of my kids watching the parade. You do see central and second briefly.

From:

clater@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:44 PM

To:

Subject: Attachments: Fwd: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings

BEST PRACTICES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS

CASUALTYCRIME.Updated6.25.2022.pdf

#### Begin forwarded message:

From: Zachary Blair <zachary@victimsfirst.org>

Date: July 4, 2022 at 1:28:49 PM CDT

To: "Rotering, Nancy" <nrotering@cityhpil.com>, "Jogmen, Lou" ljogmen@cityhpil.com>, cityhp <cityhp@cityhpil.com>, Fire <Fire@cityhpil.com>, Police <Police@cityhpil.com>, "Neukirch, Ghida" <gneukirch@cityhpil.com>, "Civitello, Amanda" <acivitello@cityhpil.com>, "Schrage, Joe" <jschrage@cityhpil.com>, "Fontane, Joel" <jfontane@cityhpil.com>, "Later, Charmain" <clater@cityhpil.com>, "Bonaguidi, William" <WBonaguidi@cityhpil.com>, "O'Neill, Joe" <JONeill@cityhpil.com>, info@repbobmorgan.com, ilsenate29@gmail.com, pfrank@lakecountyil.gov, srummel@lakecountyil.gov, "Blumberg, Tony" <ablumberg@cityhpil.com>, "Holleman, Michelle" <mholleman@cityhpil.com>, "Lidawer, Annette" <alidawer@cityhpil.com>, "Stolberg, Adam" <astolberg@cityhpil.com>, "Stone, Kim" <kstone@cityhpil.com>, "Tapia, Andres" <atapia@cityhpil.com>, kaitlin\_fahey@duckworth.senate.gov, benjamin\_rhodeside@duckworth.senate.gov, jasmine\_hunt@durbin.senate.gov, pat\_souders@durbin.senate.gov, jessica.bernton@mail.house.gov, greg.claus@mail.house.gov, casev.oshea@mail.house.gov

Cc: Anita Busch <anita@victimsfirst.org>, David Bilu <david@victimsfirst.org>, Amanda Bean <amanda@victimsfirst.org>, Javier Nava <javier@victimsfirst.org>

Subject: VictimsFirst: Best Practices (Guide) for Mass Shootings

**JEXTERNAL EMAILI** 

Dear Mayor, Officials, Leaders, and First Responders,

We are so sorry for everyone experiencing the mass shooting today in Highland Park. We are a national network of mass shooting families and community members who have worked behind the scenes on over 34 mass shootings across the United States.

Attached is Best Practices for Mass Casualty Crime, the only trauma-informed, victim-centric guide in the country to help you organize/navigate while not re-victimizing those most directly impacted.

It is also available here: <a href="https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices">https://www.victimsfirst.org/bestpractices</a>

We will be starting a centralized victims fund—as we have in Uvalde, Buffalo, and multiple prior mass shootings—to help ensure 100% of what is donated goes directly to victims.

We are standing by if you need us or have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Zachary Blair Vice President VictimsFirst 706-VICTIMS (842-8467) http://www.victimsfirst.org facebook.com/victimsfirstalways



# BEST PRACTICES/NATIONAL GUIDELINES LEARNED OVER YEARS OF MASS CASUALTY CRIMES

We – our network of families from other mass shootings over many years – have repeatedly gone in after mass shootings to advocate for victims who are too traumatized to speak for themselves and to help counties, cities and states understand what is actually needed for victims and how best to help. This best practices/national guidelines list has been put together in order to help you.

After a mass shooting, your community will become a circus of media, well-wishers, gun violence prevention (gvp) groups, those wanting TV exposure to promote their own organization for fundraising opportunities, self-described "experts" also wanting media attention, and inappropriate calls for museum archiving for temporary memorials before family members are even buried. You will also be inundated with calls from community nonprofits from other mass shootings offering their "help." Depending on the nonprofit, what they will tell you may result in the re-traumatization and re-victimization of those suffering most.

Typically, people think that federal and/or state victim agencies help to take care of things, and while helpful, they don't even scratch the surface of what is actually needed. Here is what we learned from the Victim/Survivor perspective to help you while making sure that victims are not re-victimized:

# **FUNDRAISING:**

-- Immediately establish one, centralized fund and make certain that 100% of the donations collected from Americans/Corporations/Donors worldwide actually go DIRECTLY TO the victims/survivors. We -- over 130 parents of murdered children, those injured and those who survived from Columbine, Va Tech, NIU, Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple, Newtown, Alturas, Santa Barbara (Isla Vista), Roseburg, San Bernardino, Orlando Pulse Night Club, Las Vegas as well as one of the 9/11 fathers who worked with Sen. Ted Kennedy to make sure victims were compensated – have already established and/or endorsed this centralized fund called The National Compassion Fund via the National Center for Victims of Crime. The Fund is designed to take care of ALL victims: families of the deceased, those shot, injured and those who survived.

This helps to end the decades of re-victimization and makes sure donor intent is actually fulfilled. Money collected through other funds usually go everywhere but to the victims themselves. It also helps to eliminate fraud and keep victim privacy. (Note: Historically about 10% of donations won't be able to be verified so keep that in mind).

The NCF exists solely to distribute tax-deductible donations to victims of mass tragedy. The Fund activates when a mass tragedy happens, collects donations, distributes those funds directly to the victims and then closes down -- until the next mass tragedy occurs. We encourage this Fund to stay open until after the one-year mark.

-- Establish a credible, point person/s to birddog non-profits to expose fraudulent funds and report them to law enforcement. This should be immediately done by the State Attorney General's office who oversees this kind of thing. Manage fundraising *immediately*.

- --Be transparent about what the funds will be used for. This has been accomplished in the past by setting up two funds: One for Victims and the other for Community needs.
- --Do not just automatically set up funds for Scholarships or Memorials without speaking to the family members of the deceased for whom it's for. Do the victims' families want that done? What would they like done?
- -- Issue an Immediate release of emergency funds directly to victims (usually the state victim compensation fund can do this). We suggest \$5K immediately once victims are all identified. Let them know help is coming. Incomes for some families have been cut in half. Stress comes also in the form of not knowing how they are going to pay bills while out of work and from belongings (like personal belongings phones, etc. -- being confiscated during the investigation).

# **FUNERALS:**

- -- A point person is needed to connect victims with the Office of Victims Assistance (and VOC in their states) that can help with burial expenses (typically, victims have not known about this in the past and neither have many victim advocates) and help them fill out any paperwork. PTSD takes hold right away and filling out paperwork can be overwhelming. Let families know that it is available to help financially; that helps to alleviate stress.
- \*\*This should be done for the entire victim base, not only families of the deceased. Here are state victim comp offices: http://www.nacvcb.org/index.asp?sid=6
- -- Provide security at funeral services and establish national guidelines for communities to follow when protestors (such as the Westboro Baptist Church) wish to make a media event out of a private day of mourning. Establish minimum distances and proximity requirements to ensure that funeral services are not desecrated
- -- Pact immediately with hotel and airlines and Uber/Lyft to help families who must fly in to identify their loved ones bodies or be at their hospital bedside.

# MEDIA/COMMUNICATION:

- -- Provide interpreters
- -- Make sure there are trauma specialists who can be on call 24/7.
- -- NoNotoriety Policy. Make sure First Responders and Politicians (ANYONE deemed to speak to the media) are all on the same page, focusing on the victims and heroes and not the shooter. Teach people about media sensitivity not only for <u>public safety</u> reasons but to stop re-victimizing victims. There IS a proven contagion effect and copycats or threats will definitely follow. <u>www.nonotoriety.com</u>
- -- Make sure all key first responders (law enforcement) have cell phone numbers of city and community leaders and vice versa. **Designate one or two competent people to organize** all of this for the sake of the victims and communities.
- --Language is important and the words someone uses can be very re-victimizing to those directly impacted. For instance, using the word "lost" when referring to a child so violently ripped from one's family. Family members shot and killed were not "lost." They were murdered, taken from our families, lives stolen, stolen from us.

Similarly with the use of 'anniversary' of the shooting. It is nothing to celebrate and many prefer using the words "year mark" as in the first year-mark.

After a mass shooting, never say, "It could have been worse." For families of the deceased, it can get no worse.

Avoid the word "healing" because for families of the deceased, there is only the path of learning how to cope and manage the trauma.

- -- Assist families/survivors in controlling the use of images of the deceased. Frequently, media outlets and fundraising groups will gather images of the victims from the internet and use them without consent of the owners of those images. Misuse of images of the victims re-victimizes the survivors and disrespects the deceased. Again, much of this can be avoided by having approved images released through the wire services for use by news media outlets.
- -- Have victim advocates assist families of the deceased/injured also with putting together a statement for the press about their loved one. While in horrible grief, we have been hounded in the past by the media to do this and if not done, the media puts up their own information, thereby revictimizing victims' families yet again.
- -- Provide professional Communications person to help victims with the crushing amount of media and groups reaching out to try to get to the victims. There is simply no way for them to sift through any of it. The scope is beyond comprehension.
- -- Give victims the option of being able to talk to other families of the deceased and survivors of past mass casualty crimes so you can have questions answered by those who know, who have lived through it, and be prepared for what will be experienced in both the short-term and long-term. Victim advocates, while well-meaning, can add more stress and others who have been through these tragedies who have the experience and knowledge, understanding and sensitivity, should work in conjunction with advocates to reduce stress. Usually the FBI creates a wall. *That is the opposite of what should be happening.*
- -- Have victims from previous mass casualty crimes work with politicians and those in the community so the proper words and language are used when speaking to and about victims of crime. Make sure they have the proper pronunciations of names of the deceased. (For example, those who are deceased are not "lost" rather they were murdered, shot and killed, taken).
- -- A name and number from both federal and local law enforcement to each family for other issues that always arise (stalking, death threats, bullying on social media, fraudulent victims funds, conspiracy theorists, violation of privacy issues, and many others such as how to remove your home address and phone number from Internet people search sites or remove fraudulent social media accounts).
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# SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- Local School District/Principal should be aware that it is re-victimizing for families to have their deceased loved ones immediately purged out of the school's files. Offer to talk to each family – either directly or through the victim's advocate — to see what their individual wishes are. Some want to gather up their children's or loved ones records.

In addition, certain activities designed to create a perception of safety for returning survivors (such as the presence of increased armed security personnel, active shooter drills and clear backpacks) have added to, not reduced, feelings of trauma and victimization for students.

- -- Bereavement counselors and trauma specialists for schoolchildren and teachers in schools both directly inside the community impacted and indirectly in neighboring communities when needed. It will be a scary time for both children and teachers/adults whether the shooting/terrorist attack impacted them directly or not.
- -- Behavioral health programs should be proactive, not reactive, in nature. Many children may not recognize the need to seek care, particularly teenagers. In addition, seeking care may be challenged by stigma, fear, availability of resources and payments. The goal of the school and community programs should be proactive and long-term in nature and include population-based screening, navigation to appropriate, individualized services and management of progress over time.
- Of utmost importance is having an alternative for school kids who are so traumatized that they are not sure they can finish their education. We need something to help them (We have seen kids go from straight A's to C's and the school gives no alternative to finish their education). There are K12 programs already in 33 states. There are also Independent Study programs at schools.

## **HOW POLITICIANS CAN TRULY HELP:**

- --Work with D.A/Coroner's office to keep autopsy photos and reports from being made public. It should be up to the individual families as there are other siblings, relatives, etc. that are also impacted.
- -- **ASK the families what THEY want** instead of doing what city officials want. In one incident, only a week to 10 days after the shooting, families were *unbelievably* asked if they wanted to attend a memorial inside the building of their loved ones killing ground. Oftentimes, memorials, scholarships and city events are set up without knowledge or any input from the families themselves. This is the opposite of what should be happening.
- -- Work to get Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result of a mass casualty crime.
- Work to extend Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.
- -- In the past, **hospitals have generously absorbed the initial bills of the victims** (thereby relieving overwhelming stress). The city or state should reach out to see if this is possible.
- -- Make sure cities immediately apply for federal and state grants for mental health. There are MULTI-MILLION dollar grants that can come in later.
- Point people for the victim base to make Worker Comp claims (if applicable) go smoothly so victims aren't denied crucial medical care and medications (which happened in San Bernardino).

# HOW BUSINESSES CAN TRULY HELP:

-- Immediate point people on the victim contingent side and community side who can work together to find and fulfill short-term help (childcare, pet care, getting groceries, shoveling sidewalks, mowing lawns, help filling out forms and a host of other vital, day-to-day help that most people don't even think about). Businesses in the community often want to offer help.

- -- Coordination of efforts between businesses wanting to give gift cards to the families and the need ... they will flood in from everywhere. If it is high-profile, letters will flood in as well for the victims.
- Help victims/survivors find disability accessible housing, transportation, etc. (see below)
- -- Medical Supply store gift cards.

## FIRST RESPONDERS:

- -- Make sure victims can connect with First Responders who helped them if they want. It can help all involved.
- -- Bring in other First Responder brothers and sisters who have been through similar incidents so those uniformed who have been traumatized have emotional support. Medical teams need the same.

# **OTHER ISSUES:**

#### **Meal Trains**

When organizing meal trains for victims and/or family members, it is important to keep addresses private and off the Internet for public consumption for the sake of the victim bases' safety. In Parkland, we found multiple times that people would sign up to "help" for meal trains with an ulterior motive to gain the victims' families and survivors' addresses for their own personal gain. To avoid this, we had multiple volunteers set up on a nightly basis to truly help on the meal train. We had a volunteer pick up from the restaurant, then hand the food off to another person Authorized by the families to have the home address and deliver the food to the location. This maintains privacy.

-- Ambulance chasing lawyers will always come in. Make sure that families know there are lawyers at the NCVC and elsewhere who can provide free consultation until they find their own lawyer.

#### "Resiliency Centers"

This can be a bone of contention for those directly impacted as victims watch hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into establishing a "Resiliency Center" while they themselves cannot pay bills. Victims directly impacted should be asked if they want this. Also, there is a real concern for those out of state who cannot partake of the Center and then watch their portion of donations meant for them go into a building, sometimes that costs upwards of \$1 million.

#### Museums

Directly impacted communities may be immediately contacted by museum curators in the aftermath of a mass shooting who will encourage the collection of items from temporary memorials. It is often done even before families have a chance to bury their children, which we find disrespectful.

Allow families and survivors to bury their children and later lead the conversation of any memorialization, scholarships, benches, and remembrance when *they* are ready. First foremost, respect the victims' families wishes.

The intent behind objects left at temporary memorials, usually outdoors, is part of the collective grieving process. The first consideration should always be the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of victims—those directly impacted by a mass shooting.

If local communities seek to document the temporary memorials, make sure that the families, not museum curators, are allowed to chose what they would like to keep from those public memorials, first and foremost.

We find it extremely distasteful to try to create a tourist attraction off the murders of our loved ones.

# **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Establish one website where victims/survivors can immediately go to get information.
- -- Establish a social media presence so those in the community can send messages of love to the victims. Love to Aurora. Love to Orlando. Love to Las Vegas. Love to Parkland. Love to Santa Fe. It helps to actually see that others care.

# WHAT CITY OFFICIALS/MEDICAL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW FOR THOSE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED:

- --Victims face multiple surgeries over years. Some want to try Stem-cell treatment. Pain management is a big need.
- -- Possible future amputations.
- --Repeated trips to ER (sometimes the fear is greater than the problem)

# THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR:

- --Prosthetics
- --Reclining wheelchairs so the stress is off the body and patients won't get sores.
- --Pressure relief mattresses/beds (one that is easy to get out of so that has the adjustable bed bases, which are costly).
- --New and/or Accessible Housing (if they rent) or help with moving homes, packing, unpacking OR changes to existing housing to make it handicap accessible (which includes ramps, widening doors, lowering countertops, etc., and changing the carpet to allow the wheelchairs to move more easily over them).

We were able to get the local **Home Depot** to help us behind the scenes in Aurora as well as a local realtor to help along with construction workers who agreed to help one of the most injured survivors.

- --Handicapped accessible vans are <u>very important</u>, transportation to and from rehabilitation sessions (in many mass shootings, it is hard to find vans for our victims and they are very expensive).
- --HOMECARE and the expense that comes with that. Some victims will not be able to be left alone and, in fact, I would suggest they are not left alone as the nightmares are severe. That usually falls on the family, but it exhausts an already traumatized family member. Everything from getting groceries to getting to and from doctor offices, etc.
- --Colostomy bags and the expense that comes with changing those out all the time.
- --Physical therapy costs can be very high because often it last years and many of the places don't take Medicare.

- --As they heal, some may need specially equipped cars for handicap accessible driving. They will want this power to heal mentally as well.
- --Medical Supply store GIFT CARDS would help as some of those expenses are not covered by Medicare. Wheelchairs are very expensive and transportation is outrageously priced (i.e. vans).
- --Pain management help from nerve pain.
- --Cognitive problems so help filling out the simplest of forms (hence, help needed filling out Medicare forms from friends or family or medical workers).
- --Speech therapist help or learning to communicate differently (brain injured will find this).
- --Mental support, especially if their family is small or they are far from home.
- --PTSD issues

Big problem afterwards for catastrophically injured is finding employment that can actually SUSTAIN A LIFE as employers don't really want to hire a person that they know will have ongoing medical issues and those for the badly disabled don't provide a living wage.

\*\*\* Physical wounds and/or overwhelming grief are compounded by the lack of coordination and sensitivity after mass casualty crimes and it truly needs to change. Emotional wounds are real wounds. Our families care about ALL victims. \*\*\*

# LONGER TERM LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Establish a Mass Casualty Act National Protocol encompassing all things covered here.

Extend Medicare for those who need it a year after the final appointment at the hospital for medications, supplies and care for those shot and trying to heal.

Mandate Priority Processing of SSA for victim/survivors who are deemed unable to work for life as a result.

Deem Mass Casualty Crimes Victims as a class.

Last updated, May 2022

From:

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:46 PM To: EFrable@vhw.org Subject: Re: Parade Thanks Erika. Staff is safe, Prayers for families who lost their loved ones. **Thanks** Ramesh Kanapareddy, P.E., CFM Asst. City Manager/Dir. of Public Works > On Jul 4, 2022, at 11:12 AM, Erika Frable < EFrable@vhw.org> wrote: > [EXTERNAL EMAIL] > > Ramesh, > My thoughts and prayers are with the City of Highland Park, you, and your team today. > Erika > Sent from my iPhone

rkanapareddy@cityhpil.com

From:

Eleanor Sweet McDonnell <esweet@northbarrington.org>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:48 PM

To:

nrotering@cityhpil.com John Lobaito; Sue Murdy

Cc: Subject:

Please let us know if we can help in anyway, Village of North Barrington

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Mayor Rotering (Nancy),

I had just finished the Barrington parade when I heard the news of your parade.

I know your hands are full. It appears you have incredible support of all the government agencies both in the county, state and federal level. Your message on the news was strong.

I will keep you, your staff and all of your residents safety in my prayers.

We use the Lake County Sheriff for our police protection, if that can help you in anyway.

Please let us know if you need anything from the Village of North Barrington.

Warm regards,

Eleanor

PS

My village cell is

Eleanor Sweet McDonnell
President
Village of North Barrington
Email: esweet@NorthBarrington.org

Phone: 847-381-6000 Ext. 12



Proud to serve you, the residents of North Barrington.

"I love North Barrington! tm"

Website: www.northbarrington.org/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/northbarrington/

From:

Robeen, Ron < Ron.Robeen@Illinois.gov>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:48 PM

To:

EPA . LakeMichiganWaterSupplyContacts; Falconio, Tony; Bowen, Dan; Yarrington, Yeric;

Mauger-Sonnek, Kathryn; May, Todd

Subject:

Situational awareness- Fwd: [External] NRC#1340549

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Unknown small sheen Belmont harbor

#### Get Outlook for iOS

From: Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 12:34:17 PM

To: Dunn, Greg <Greg.Dunn@Illinois.gov>; Eisenbrandt, Paul <Paul.Eisenbrandt@Illinois.gov>; Lake, Paul

<Paul.Lake@Illinois.gov>; Schultz, Jeron <Jeron.Schultz@Illinois.gov>; Bennett, Todd <Todd.Bennett@Illinois.gov>;

Robeen, Ron <Ron.Robeen@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] NRC#1340549

From: HQS-SMB-NRC@uscg.mil <HQS-SMB-NRC@uscg.mil>

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 12:34:06 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: EPA.IEMA.Faxes; Falconio, Tony Subject: [External] NRC#1340549

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER 1-800-424-8802

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Incident Report # 1340549

#### INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

\*Report taken by NRC on 04-JUL-22 at 13:27 ET.

Incident Type: UNKNOWN SHEEN

Incident Cause: UNKNOWN

Affected Area: BELMONT HARBOR

Incident was discovered on 04-JUL-22 at 12:00 local incident time.

Affected Medium: WATER / BELMONT HARBOR

REPORTING PARTY

Name:

**ANONYMOUS** 

Organization:

Address:

, XX

Email Address:

PRIMARY Phone: (111)1111111 Type of Organization: OTHER

SUSPECTED RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Name: UNKNOWN

Organization: Address:

Type of Organization: UNKNOWN

INCIDENT LOCATION

3600 NORTH RECREATION DR County: COOK

City: CHICAGO State: IL Zip: 60613

UNKNOWN SHEEN INCIDENT - BELMONT HARBOR

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: OUN Official Material Name: UNKNOWN OIL

Also Known As:

Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT Qty in Water: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CALLER REPORTS A RAINBOW SHEEN FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE ON LAKE MICHIGAN AT BELMONT HARBOR. CALLER REPORTS THE ODOR OF FUEL IN THE

AIR.

#### SENSITIVE INFORMATION

**INCIDENT DETAILS** 

Platform Rig Name: Platform Letter: Location Area ID: Location Block ID: OCSG Number: OCSP Number:

State Lease Number: Pier Dock Number: Berth Slip Number:

---SHEEN INFORMATION---

Sheen Color: RAINBOW

Sheen Odor Description: FUEL ODOR

Sheen Travel Direction: N
Sheen Size Length: 50 YARDS
Sheen Size Width: 100 FEET
--WATER INFORMATION--Body of Water: BELMONT HARBOR

Tributary of: LAKE MICHIGAN

Nearest River Mile Marker:

Water Supply Contaminated: UNKNOWN

**IMPACT** Fire Involved: NO Fire Extinguished: UNKNOWN INJURIES: NO Sent to Hospital: Empl/Crew: Passenger: FATALITIES: NO Empl/Crew: Passenger: Occupant: EVACUATIONS:NO Who Evacuated: Radius/Area: Damages: NO Hours Direction of Closed Closure Closure Type Description of Closure Air: NO Major Artery:NO Road: NO Waterway:NO Track: NO Passengers Transferred: NO Environmental Impact: UNKNOWN Media Interest: NONE REMEDIAL ACTIONS NONE REPORTED. Release Secured: UNKNOWN Release Rate: Estimated Release Duration: **WEATHER** Weather: PARTLY CLOUDY, 86°F ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED Federal: State/Local: State/Local On Scene: State Agency Number: NOTIFICATIONS BY NRC AMTRAK POLICE DEPARTMENT (OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS (CENTRAL DIVISION)) 04-JUL-22 13:33 (312)6553116 CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (GRASP) 04-JUL-22 13:33 (770)4887100 ASST COMDT FOR INTELLIGENCE (CG-2) (OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE PLANS AND POLICY (CG-25))04-JUL-22 13:33 (202)3722886 CG INVESTIGATIVE SVC CHICAGO (CGIS RAO CHICAGO) 04-JUL-22 13:33 (630)9862160 CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNIT) 04-JUL-22 13:33 (312)7453133

152

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT (CHICAGO PD FUSION CENTER)

CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK WATER DIV (WATER PRODUCTION DIVISION)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (312)7456191

04-JUL-22 13:33 (847)4334355

CENTRAL LAKE COUNTY JAC (OPERATIONS DIRECTOR)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (847)5829215

DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (SECRETARY OPERATION CENTER (SOC))

04-JUL-22 13:33

DHS CISA (CISA CENTRAL)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (202)2829201

MI OFFICE OF INTEL AND ANALYSIS (FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (919)9674500

DOT CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER (MAIN OFFICE)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (202)3661863

U.S. EPA V (MAIN OFFICE)

(312)3532318

USCG NATIONAL COMMAND CENTER (MAIN OFFICE)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (202)3722100

IA HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERG MGMT (IA NATIONAL GUARD JOINT FORCES

**HEADQUARTERS**)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (515)3234324

IL STATE EMERG AGCY (MAIN OFFICE)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (217)7827860

IN STATE DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (SITUATIONAL AWARENESS)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (317)2336115

LAKE COUNTY HS AND EMERG MGMT (MAIN OFFICE)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (219)7553549

NOAA RPTS FOR IL (MAIN OFFICE)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (206)5264911

**OEPC REGION 5 (MAIN OFFICE)** 

04-JUL-22 13:33 (202)2086304

PORTER COUNTY (INDIANA DUNES TOURISM)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (219)9262255

SECTOR LAKE MICHIGAN (COMMAND CENTER)

(414)7477182

IL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OFFICE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (217)7823637

IN DEPT ENV MNGMT (MAIN OFFICE)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (317)2337745

USCG DISTRICT 9 (MAIN OFFICE)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (216)9026118

**USCG DISTRICT 9 (COMMAND CENTER)** 

04-JUL-22 13:33 (216)9026109

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

\*\*\* END INCIDENT REPORT #1340549 \*\*\*

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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT http://secure-

web.cisco.com/1X71VwuPO XKfdHmZJ2wPMXsMXZ9755GzUSQ9cYCGkIMiZkSqwyZb50M0XGQq\_avvGzWTbSi65b0doFRFUNf8geX\_V6ZzSHkKrTEnYsmWld4oofnoIG1ylXZy\_4lDAXys2ejLh6Z\_DewE0TgJr35XR0UTM\_v2W7OTy9JPjClqCwcUQu97QPWs4xkCrxvWFZVICxpGXRBPN0sdR9b3cpGa9gbZWgFoYwA0kxv9n0\_L0NpZtj0\_AeshV9j6hHT\_m5kknBnV0xhGK69U\_Do0\_QRXjVwO6Tdn1q1odTP8HAS4pqqdn3SGQgGZOU5RVf9SlThSQPQY\_ulwjh4Bn2DxvnACUG1kq0geUGezt\_gBZQ7ZmwXiZ23mroOaz1djisbfF5BH4vQnqqWfp7BrwwmHmTzS7O7BkdrFL8zpB0X1J6yAbWw/http%3A%2F%2Fnrc.uscg.mil

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From:

Robeen, Ron < Ron.Robeen@Illinois.gov>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:48 PM

To:

EPA . LakeMichiganWaterSupplyContacts; Falconio, Tony; Bowen, Dan; Yarrington, Yeric;

Mauger-Sonnek, Kathryn; May, Todd

Subject:

Situational awareness- Fwd: [External] NRC#1340549

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Unknown small sheen Belmont harbor

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To: Dunn, Greg <Greg.Dunn@Illinois.gov>; Eisenbrandt, Paul <Paul.Eisenbrandt@Illinois.gov>; Lake, Paul

<Paul.Lake@Illinois.gov>; Schultz, Jeron < Jeron.Schultz@Illinois.gov>; Bennett, Todd < Todd.Bennett@Illinois.gov>;

Robeen, Ron <Ron.Robeen@Illinois.gov>
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Incident Type: UNKNOWN SHEEN Incident Cause: UNKNOWN

Affected Area: BELMONT HARBOR

Incident was discovered on 04-JUL-22 at 12:00 local incident time.

Affected Medium: WATER / BELMONT HARBOR

REPORTING PARTY

Name:

**ANONYMOUS** 

Organization:

Address:

, XX

Email Address:

PRIMARY Phone: (111)1111111 Type of Organization: OTHER

SUSPECTED RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Name:

UNKNOWN

Organization: Address:

Type of Organization: UNKNOWN

INCIDENT LOCATION

3600 NORTH RECREATION DR County: COOK

City: CHICAGO State: IL Zip: 60613

UNKNOWN SHEEN INCIDENT - BELMONT HARBOR

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: OUN Official Material Name: UNKNOWN OIL

Also Known As:

Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

Qty in Water: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CALLER REPORTS A RAINBOW SHEEN FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE ON LAKE MICHIGAN AT BELMONT HARBOR. CALLER REPORTS THE ODOR OF FUEL IN THE

AIR.

#### SENSITIVE INFORMATION

**INCIDENT DETAILS** 

Platform Rig Name:

Platform Letter:

Location Area ID:

Location Block ID:

OCSG Number:

OCSP Number:

State Lease Number:

Pier Dock Number:

Berth Slip Number:

---SHEEN INFORMATION---

Sheen Color: RAINBOW

Sheen Odor Description: FUEL ODOR

Sheen Travel Direction: N

Sheen Size Length: 50 YARDS Sheen Size Width: 100 FEET

---WATER INFORMATION---

Body of Water: BELMONT HARBOR

Tributary of: LAKE MICHIGAN

Nearest River Mile Marker:

Water Supply Contaminated: UNKNOWN

**IMPACT** 

Fire Involved: NO Fire Extinguished: UNKNOWN

INJURIES: NO Sent to Hospital: Empl/Crew: Passenger: FATALITIES: NO Empl/Crew: Passenger: Occupant: EVACUATIONS:NO Who Evacuated:

Radius/Area:

Damages: NO

Hours Direction of

Closure Type Description of Closure

Closed Closure

Air: NO

Major

Road: NO

Artery:NO

Waterway:NO

Track: NO

Passengers Transferred: NO

Environmental Impact: UNKNOWN

Media Interest: NONE

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

NONE REPORTED.

Release Secured: UNKNOWN

Release Rate:

Estimated Release Duration:

WEATHER

Weather: PARTLY CLOUDY, 86°F

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Federal:

State/Local:

State/Local On Scene: State Agency Number:

NOTIFICATIONS BY NRC

AMTRAK POLICE DEPARTMENT (OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS (CENTRAL DIVISION))

04-JUL-22 13:33 (312)6553116

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (GRASP)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (770)4887100

ASST COMDT FOR INTELLIGENCE (CG-2) (OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE PLANS AND POLICY (CG-25))

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CG INVESTIGATIVE SVC CHICAGO (CGIS RAO CHICAGO)

04-JUL-22 13:33 (630)9862160

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNIT)

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web.cisco.com/1X71VwuPO\_XKfdHmZJ2wPMXsMXZ9755GzUSQ9cYCGkIMiZkSqwyZb50M0XGQq\_avvGzWTbSi65b0doFRFUNf8geX\_V6ZzSHkKrTEnYsmWId4oofnolG1y1XZy\_4lDAXys2ejLh6Z\_DewE0TgJr35XR0UTM\_v2W7O\_Ty9JPjClqCwcUQu97QPWs4xkCrxvWFZVICxpGXRBPN0sdR9b3cpGa9gbZWgFoYwA0kxv9n0\_L0NpZtj0\_AeshV9j6hHT\_m5kknBnV0xhGK69U\_Do0\_QRXjVwO6Tdn1q1odTP8HAS4pqqdn3SGQgGZOU5RVf9SlThSQPQY\_ulwjh4Bn2DxynACUG1kq0geUGezt\_gBZQ7ZmwXiZ23mroOaz1djisbfF5BH4yQnqqWfp7BrwwmHmTzS7O7BkdrFL8zpB0X1J6yAbWw/http%3A%2F%2Fnrc.uscg,mil

be attorney-client privileged or attorney work product, may constitute inside information or internal deliberative staff communication, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. Receipt by an unintended recipient does not waive attorney-client privilege, attorney work product privilege, or any other exemption from disclosure.

From: Fitzgerald, Richard S <Richard.S.Fitzgerald@ice.dhs.gov>

Sent:Monday, July 4, 2022 1:49 PMTo:LJOGMEN@cityHPIL.com

Subject: Shooting Incident - Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Chief Jogmen,

This is HSI Chicago Special Agent in Charge Sean Fitzgerald. I wanted to reach out to you directly to obtain your contact information, mine is below.

HSI Chicago is ready and willing to assist you, the Lake County Sheriff or the FBI as needed.

Our HSI Chicago JTTF agents are already in communication with their FBI teams and ready to assist at the command post or on scene.

My HSI Chicago Special Response Team is on standby to support in any searches or if another team needs a break.

My Chief Intel Officer is already in contact with his counterparts as well.

If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any requests.

Thank you, Sean

#### R. Sean Fitzgerald | SAC

1218 - 101 | Homeback Scariff In stitution | Chicaes 1 Tower Lane I Oal proof. Terrace, Illinois ot181 p3(q) 574 °74 °8 | v ell: rsfitzge@ice.dbs.gov

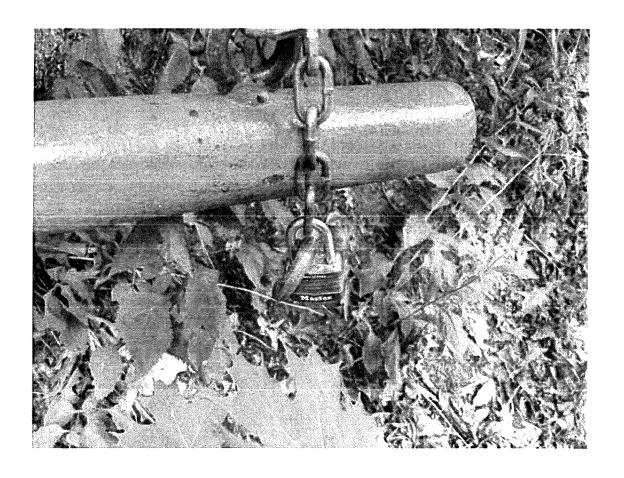
From: WWilling@cityhpil.com
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:50 PM

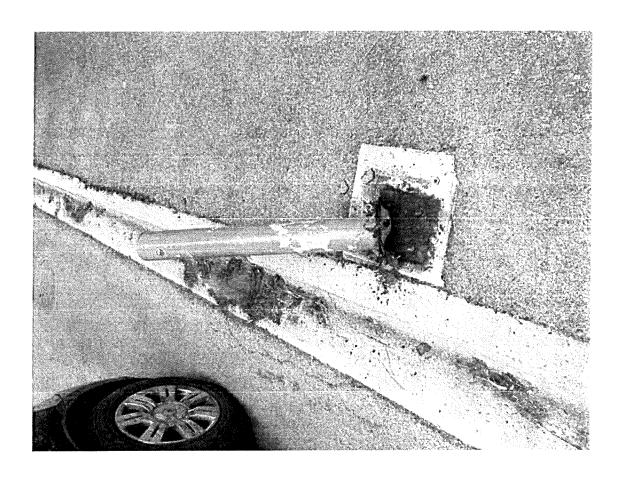
To: mcarr@pdhp.org; djensen@cityhpil.com; rkanapareddy@cityhpil.com

**Subject:** Park Ave gate smashed by Police!!

The gate must have been secured at the onset of the parade issue and on searching for the suspect the tactical vehicle smashed through the gate to gain access to the area. Video of the police and tactical vehicle are saved. No damage to the vehicle!









Walt
Sent from my iPhone

From:

Lake Forest Parks and Recreation < lfrec@cityoflakeforest.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:50 PM

To:

rbannon@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Cancelled: Lake Forest Festival & Fireworks

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



# Cancelled: Lake Forest Festival & Fireworks

Due to the shooting in Highland Park, the Annual Lake Forest Festival and Fireworks at Deerpath Community Park has been cancelled out of an abundance of caution.

Tickets purchased online will be refunded.

In addition, Forest Park Beach will be closed for the remainder of the day today, July 4.

The Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of Lake Forest Parks and Recreation Foundation extends its deepest condolences to our neighbors in Highland Park.

Follow us on Social Media for more updates.

Facebook Instagram

VISIT OUR WEBSITE VIEW OUR PROGRAM GUIDES

LAKE FOREST PARKS & RECREATION

City of Lake Forest 400 Hastings Road Lake Forest, IL 60045

847-234-6700

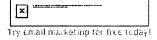
P Our registration office is open. Online registration is encouraged. 0

www.LFParksandRec.com



The City of Lake Forest | City Hall, 220 E. Deerpath, Lake Forest, IL 60045

Unsubscribe rhannon@cityhpil.com
Update Profile | Constant Contact Pata Notice
Sent by Ifrec@cityoflakeforest.com powered by



From: ISP . DoNotReply <ISP.DoNotReply@Illinois.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:52 PM

To: Nardomarino, Frank

Subject: (U//FOUO) Update 2: Highland Park Holiday Parade Shooting

#### [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Updates are in red.

At 10:14am, there was a call of an active shooter received. This is currently an active incident and residents have been advised to shelter in place. The suspect is described as a male/white, age 18-20 years-old, small build, long hair, and wearing a white or blue t-shirt. A rifle has been recovered at scene. At this time, 6 people are dead and 24 have been transported. The suspect was shooting from a roof.

Several cities have Highland Park have cancelled their 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. These cities include Highland Park, Winnetka, Deerfield, and Glenview. This may not be a complete list.

Open sources report as many as five dead and 16 injured. Shooter is still at large. Area residents alerted.

The Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center has received information about an active shooter at a holiday parade in Highland Park, Illinois. Open sources are reporting that nine people have been shot. There is no information indicating a suspect(s) is in custody at this time.

This is raw reporting and the situation is rapidly evolving. Information is subject to change. Additional information will be shared as received and as is appropriate.

From:

ISP . DoNotReply <ISP.DoNotReply@Illinois.gov>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:52 PM

To:

Schrage, Joe

Subject:

(U//FOUO) Update 2: Highland Park Holiday Parade Shooting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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From:

djensen@cityhpil.com

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:54 PM

To:

WWilling@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Re: Park Ave gate smashed by Police!!

Well,

That will make relocation easier I guess.

We may want to pitch thr tower camera up to capture traffics.

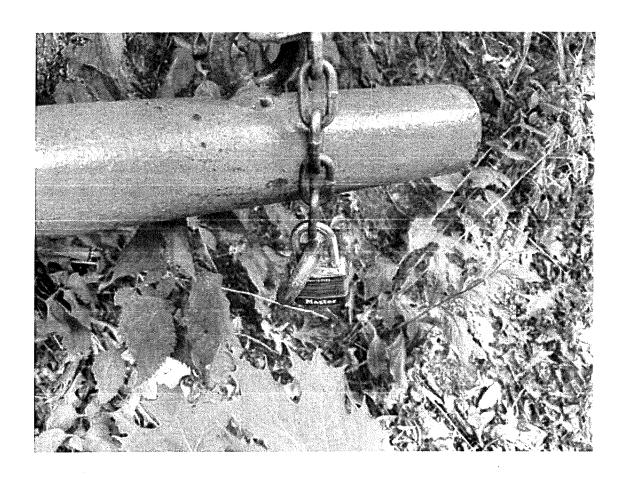
Not likely to catch sight of the perp but more likely than watching g the doorway.

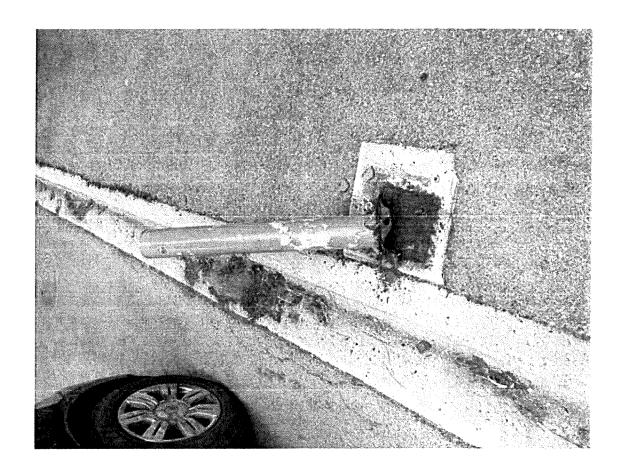
Don Jensen

On Jul 4, 2022, at 1:49 PM, Willing, Walter < WWilling@cityhpil.com> wrote:

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Walt
Sent from my iPhone

From: Sent: NIPAS <noreply@everbridge.net> Monday, July 4, 2022 1:54 PM

To:

bmerkel@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Limited Activation

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please click here to acknowledge receipt of this message

Arrest and Weapons Teams respond to Highland Park Fire Department, 1130 Central Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035, to assist with a mass shooting.

Auth: Clark

From:

Google Alerts < googlealerts-noreply@google.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:54 PM

To:

chersch@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Google Alert - Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]



### Highland Park, IL

2022

NEWS

PHOTOS: Images of Scene After Gunfire Erupts During **Highland Park** Independence Day Parade

NBC Chicago

Images were captured Monday around **Highland Park** after a shooting in the area along the north suburban Independence Day parade route left five ...



Six Dead In 4th Of July Parade Shooting In Highland Park, Illinois - Deadline Deadline

At a press conference just before 1 p.m. Chicago time, law enforcement officers described the suspected shooter as a white male, 18-20 years old, ...

Shooting at Fourth of July parade in **Highland Park**, **Illinois** leaves 6 dead and more than ...

CNN

A mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade Monday in a suburb outside Chicago, **Illinois**, left at least six people dead and wounded more than two ...

同同

6 dead dozens hospitalized in shooting along July Fourth parade route north of Chicago
ABC30
Police in **Highland Park**, **Illinois**, are responding to a shooting in the downtown area that left people six dead and dozens more hospitalized.

At least 6 people killed at July Fourth parade in Chicago suburb, gunman still at large

CNEC

**HIGHLAND PARK, IL**: First responders work the scene of a shooting at a Fourth of July parade on July 4, 2022 in **Highland Park, Illinois**.



6 dead. 24 others wounded during **Highland Park IL** Fourth of July parade FOX 11 Los Angeles

FOX 11 Los Angeles

At least six people died and 24 were wounded in a mass shooting at a July Fourth parade in the Chicago suburb of **Highland Park**, **Illinois**, ...

6 dead 24 seriously wounded in shooting at **Highland Park** July 4 parade - CBS News

**CBS Nev.s** 

Police are searching for the shooter, and urging people in the area to shelter in place.

THE THE

**Highland Park** parade shooting: Police release description of shooting suspect

ABC Chicago

**Highland Park** police investigating a shooting at a 4th of July parade have released a description of the suspect after six people were killed.





PHOTOS Chaos unfolds as gunman opens fire at **Highland Park** Fourth of July parade

WGN-TV

**HIGHLAND PARK**, **III**. — Six people were killed and 24 others were hospitalized in a shooting at a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, ...

Fourth of July Parade Shooting in **Highland Park**. **Illinois** Leaves at Least Six Dead, 24 Injured

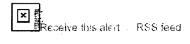
#### Variety

Multiple people have reportedly been shot after rounds were fired during a Fourth of July parade in the **Illinois** suburb **Highland Park**.



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Send Tell 1

From: Mitch Smith <mitchell.smith@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:54 PM

To: Civitello, Amanda
Subject: Re: NY Times request

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thanks, Amanda. Appreciate your help.

On Mon, Jul 4, 2022 at 12:45 PM Civitello, Amanda <a civitello@cityhpil.com > wrote: Hi Mitch,

Thank you for your kind words of support. I will connect with Mayor Rotering and City Manager Neukirch and follow up with you shortly.

A press briefing will be held at 12:45 PM at Fire Station #33, 1130 Central Ave.

I may be reached on my personal phone at 847.387.9254. I lost my work phone in the incident and will not be able to respond at the number you typically have on file for me.

Thank you.

#### Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

Highland Park, Illinois — Highland Park Police are responding to an active shooter incident that occurred in downtown Highland Park during the 4th of July parade. This is an active incident. All individuals are advised to shelter in place. Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect, evidence of a firearm has been recovered. Numerous law enforcement officers are responding and have secured a perimeter around downtown Highland Park. 19 people have been transferred to the hospital: 5 individuals are confirmed deceased.

More information will be posted to <u>cityhpil.com</u> as it becomes available.

#### **Amanda Civitello**

Communications Manager

City of Highland Park

1707 St Johns Avenue

Highland Park, Illinois 60035

847.926.1043

acivitello@cityhpil.com

cityhpil.com

From: Mitch Smith < mitchell.smith@nytimes.com >

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 11:19 AM

To: Civitello, Amanda Subject: NY Times request

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

#### Hi Amanda,

I'm a Chicago-based New York Times reporter covering today's incident at the parade. Is there any information you're able to release at this point about what happened? And can you please add me to your media email list?

Thanks for your help under what I know are difficult circumstances.

#### Mitch Smith

The New York Times, Chicago Bureau mitch.smith@nytimes.com

O: 312-552-7209 C:

From:

ISP . DoNotReply <ISP.DoNotReply@Illinois.gov>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:52 PM

To:

Amy Hyndman

Subject:

(U//FOUO) Update 2: Highland Park Holiday Parade Shooting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Open sources report as many as five dead and 16 injured. Shooter is still at large. Area residents alerted.

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From:

ISP . DoNotReply <ISP.DoNotReply@Illinois.gov>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:52 PM

To:

Lou Jogmen

Subject:

(U//FOUO) Update 2: Highland Park Holiday Parade Shooting

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From: ISP . DoNotReply <ISP.DoNotReply@Illinois.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 1:52 PM

To: Sean Gallagher

Subject: (U//FOUO) Update 2: Highland Park Holiday Parade Shooting

#### [EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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From:

ISP . DoNotReply <ISP.DoNotReply@Illinois.gov>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:52 PM

To:

William B . Bonaguidi

Subject:

(U//FOUO) Update 2: Highland Park Holiday Parade Shooting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Palbitska, Ashley		
From: Sent: To: Subject:	Your Highland Park II neighbors <no-reply@rs.email.nextdoor.com> Monday, July 4, 2022 1:55 PM acumba@cityhpil.com Top post: shots fired at hp parade?</no-reply@rs.email.nextdoor.com>	
[EXTERNAL EMAIL]		
Today's top posts	×	
shots fired at hp parad	le?	
does snyone know chats goi	ng on? My daughter is at sunset park and they were all moved to a safe See more	
Caryl Aronson		
<b>x</b> 19 <b>x</b> 59 <b>x</b> La	streply 1 min ago	
Anybody hearing gun	shots this morning?	
And Now police cars 200		
🗷 Marzena Jonak		
▼ 7 ▼ 38 ▼ 1 ast	cepty min ago	
Anyone know more ab	out an active shooter at highland parks parade today?	
🗷 lan Clark		
🕱 3 🕱 10 🕟 Lasi	reply 5 min ago	

Hello neighbors!
My husband and I are seeking a real estate agent who has many years of experience in the Wilmette See more
Ex Christina Gikas
920-930 Happ Road, Northfield, IL.
■ 21 ■ Last reply Uhr ago
× ·
Missing dog!
In the chaos of the shooting today my niece lost their beloved family pet. Her name is Lola & she's See more
Rosa Marasigan
7 x 9 ix Last reply 9 min ago
Prayers for Highland Park
Ex Birgit M
x 10 x 1 ast reply 6 min
News & Info  1 have 2 Pavillion tickets to ravinia tonight 2nd row.  Free Weber Propage Grill, good working condition, two tanks pick up at building near Highland Park

Sunset Foods -- DM me It's great to be here. I'm Paul.

Hey, everyone. V I'm Mark

×	
L	

#### Recommendations

Seeking Carpet Removal!

I need a hardworking youth who isn't afraid of cleaning, really cleaning, a dirty, spider-webbed basement. Can anyone recommend a good electrician?

Looking for recommendations for watch and baseball card collection appraisal and insurance.

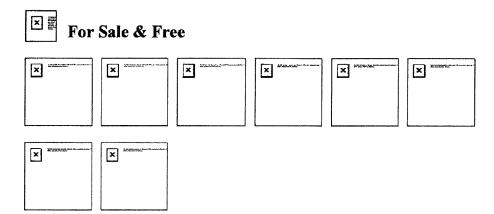
Is anyone selling a used kayak or know of a good place to get one?



## Replies

We moved here two years ago from Texas.

Just an FYH just saw a large red fox in my neighbors back yard on Highland Grove.



#### See more items

This message is intended for nemalical engaged constitutional Chamberths, here No. 14000, 470.1. For Since San Francisco CA 9410.1

From:

Sent: To: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:55 PM

Undisclosed recipients

Subject:

News - Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

#### Dear Family and Friends!!

Highland Park, Illinois just suffered through a tragic shooting incident at their downtown 4th of July Parade. My very good friend and pal, Rhoda Pierce, was riding in a convertible at the front of the parade, but fortunately for her, she told me the shooting occurred behind her (in the middle of the parade). And I'm so grateful I was able to contact Rhoda on her cell phone to learn all about what she experienced!!!!!

Other nearby communities, like Deerfield, all canceled their parades as they had to send most of their police and ambulances to Highland Park. So far, 6 people have died, and 31 people have been wounded and sent to nearby hospitals. Personally, it seems incredible that such a fine and upstanding community as Highland Park would suffer such a tragedy. As a very happy former resident, my heart and my thoughts go out to everyone living in Highland Park, Illinois!!!!

Sincerely, Bob

×

## City of Highland Park

July 4, 2022

## Active Shooter Incident in Highland Park, IL

Law enforcement agencies responding to active shooter in downtown Highland Park; all advised to shelter in place

Highland Park, Illinois – Highland Park Police are responding to an active shooter incident that occurred in downtown Highland Park during the 4th of July parade. This is an active incident. All individuals are advised to shelter in place. Law enforcement agencies are searching for the suspect; evidence of a firearm has been recovered. Numerous law enforcement agencies are assisting and have secured a perimeter around downtown Highland Park. 16 people have been transferred to the hospital; 5 individuals are confirmed deceased.

More information will be posted to <u>cityhpil.com</u> as it becomes available.

Highland Park Public Library | 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

Unsubscribe bobmorgan54@comcast.net

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Sent by enews@hplibrary.org powered by



From:

Stephan, Theodore < Theodore. Stephan@FOX.COM>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:56 PM

nrotering@cityhpil.com

To: Subject:

RE: Possible appearance on America Reports today, Monday, 7/4?

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Following up on this request for today

From: Stephan, Theodore

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 10:25 AM

To: nrotering@cityhpil.com

Subject: Possible appearance on America Reports today, Monday, 7/4?

Mayor Rotering:

I was wondering--would you be available to appear on America Reports on Fox Hews (National) today, Monday, 7/4 between 12PM - 3PM Central?

This would be to discuss the shooting in Highland Park.

Please let me know. We could do this via phoner or Skype.

Best.

Ted

Ted Stephan

Booker, America Reports with Sandra Smith and John Roberts Fox News Channel 1211 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor New York, NY 10036

Mobile:

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information. It is intended solely for the named addressee(s). If you are not an addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of the message to an addressee), you may not copy or deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments that does not relate to the official business of Fox Corporation, or its subsidiaries must be taken not to have been sent or endorsed by any of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

From:

Chris Ward <chris@peoplesfabric.com>

Sent:

Monday, July 4, 2022 1:57 PM

To:

police@cityhpil.com; acivitello@cityhpil.com

Subject:

Media advisory list

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Could you please add me to your list for media advisories going out about today's shooting?

Thank you,

Chris

Chris Ward

Reporter, People's Fabric

From: Julie Malear <malear@theiacp.org>
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:57 PM

To: ljogmen@cityhpil.com

**Subject:** Mass Violence Peer-to-Peer Assistance

Attachments: MVAI List of Resources.pdf; MVAI Brochure.pdf; MVAI Peer-to-Peer Advisory Team.pdf

*IEXTERNAL EMAIL!* 

#### Chief Jogmen -

First, let me express my heartfelt condolences to you and your community following the tragic events that occurred at the Highland Park parade this morning. I currently oversee the IACP Mass Violence Advisory Initiative, a program that provides immediate peer-to-peer assistance to law enforcement leaders following a mass violence incident. We have a cadre of subject matter experts, to include former chiefs, PIOs, lead investigators, mental health professionals, victim service professionals, and chaplains, who have experienced a similar tragedy standing ready to advise and provide guidance to you at no cost. These experts include, but are not limited to:

- Chief Kristen Ziman, Aurora (IL) Police Department
- Sheriff John Mina, Orange County Sheriff's Office
- PIO Cara Zinski-Neace, Dayton Police Department
- Max Schachter, Victim Advocate
- Dr. John Nicoletti, Police Psychologist
- Charlie Scoma, Police Chaplain

Attached is more information, including resources that may prove helpful to you. As you may know, the IACP also has extensive officer wellness, victim services, and vicarious trauma resources if you feel you need additional support in those areas.

Please let me know if you would like to connect with the team or if there is any other way we can provide assistance. Our thoughts are with your agency, the Highland Park community, the victims, and their families.

Kind regards,

#### Julie Malear

Project Manager, Programs
International Association of Chiefs of Police

44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314

Direct: 703-647-7235 | Cell: Main line: 800-THE-IACP malear @theiacp.or | theiACP.or | theiACPconference.org

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# MASS VIOLENCE ADVISORY INITIATIVE

### **Community and Victim Service Resources**

- National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center
- Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Children Exposed to Violence and Childhood Trauma Toolkit
- IACP Pathways Toward Collective Healing Document

#### **Officer Wellness Resources**

- Preparing for the Unimaginable: How Chiefs can Safeguard Officer Mental Health Before and After
   Mass Casualty Events
- Enhancing Officer Wellness and Resiliency in Policing
- National Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide Toolkit
- Grief and Loss In Law Enforcement: Helping Officers and Agencies Recover and Heal
- Understanding Grief: Strategies for Coping with Tough Losses
- The Vicarious Trauma Toolkit
- Identifying and Managing Anxiety in Law Enforcement Officers
- Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for Families and Agencies
- Resilience: Keys to Helping Law Enforcement Children Thrive
- How Law Enforcement Parents Can Talk to Their Children about Current Events Fact Sheet

## **Federal Resources**

- OVC Helping Victims of Mass Violence & Terrorism Toolkit
- Police-Mental Health Collaboration (PMHC) Toolkit | Bureau of Justice Assistance (ojp.gov)
- Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness | Overview | Bureau of Justice Assistance (ojp.gov)

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# **Mass Violence Advisory Initiative**



Acts of mass violence create unique challenges for law enforcement leaders tasked with keeping their communities and officers safe during a time of intense pressure. In response, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have partnered to launch the Mass Violence Advisory Initiative (MVAI). Through the MVAI, the IACP has developed a Mass Violence Peer-to-Peer Advisory Team ready to assist when a mass violence incident occurs.

#### Mass Violence Peer-to-Peer Advisory Team

If a mass violence incident occurs in your community, you can request peer-to-peer assistance from the IACP's Mass Violence Peer-to-Peer Advisory Team, comprised of subject matter experts (SMEs) with experience leading agencies and communities through an incident of mass violence. Upon submitting a request, the IACP and BJA will assess the request and determine how best to assist. The IACP can provide a team of SMEs to assist, at no cost to the local community, either virtually or in-person, to aid and advise law enforcement immediately following a tragedy. The team provides peer-to-peer mentoring to law enforcement leaders and connects them to different BJA and IACP resources to help facilitate the local response and to start the healing process for first responders and communities.

Over the coming months, this team will build out a cadre of community, faith-based, psychological services, and other SMEs to enhance this effort. Through a trauma-informed approach, the team will provide ongoing assistance, information, and resources to help law enforcement and communities bring about community healing and ensure overall officer and community safety and wellness. This may include guidance around the following: managing agency response, communicating with the media and addressing the public, coordinating with local community resources and volunteers, collaborating with victim service personnel to support victims and their families, and officer wellness. In addition, leaders will have access to specialized resources, such as guidebooks, checklists, and toolkits to assist them in the aftermath of an incident.

#### The Mass Violence Peer-to-Peer Advisory Team assists law enforcement and communities with:

- Overall incident management
- Public information strategies
- Criminal investigation considerations
- Victim and witness health and wellness
- First responder health and wellness
- Long-term community wellness

#### **Future MVAI personnel will include:**

- Mental health professionals
- Faith-based leaders
- Community leaders
- Family members of victims

#### **How to Request Services?**

To request assistance, email MVAI@theIACP.org

Visit www.thelACP.org/MVAI for more information about this initiative, a list of available resources, and FAQs.





# IACP Mass Violence Peer-to-Peer Advisory Team



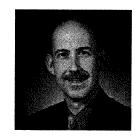
Carmen Best Chief of Police (Ret.), Seattle (WA) Police Department

Led SPD through several critical incidents and mass demonstrations



Cassidee Carlson Commander, Aurora (CO) Police Department

Aurora Movie Theater Shooting (2012)



Dr. Gene Deisinger Psychologist

Virginia Tech Shooting (2008) and other critical incidents



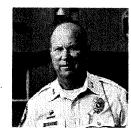
Douglas Fuchs Chief of Police (Ret.), Redding (CT) Police Department

Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting (2012)



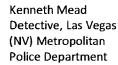
Michelle Guido Director of Strategic Communications, Orange County (FL) Sheriff's Office

Pulse Nightclub Shooting (2016)



Michael Kehoe Chief of Police (Ret.), Newtown (CT) Police Department

Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting (2012)

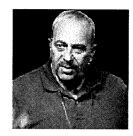


Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting (2017)



John Mina Sheriff, Orange County (FL) Sheriff's Office

Pulse Nightclub Shooting (2016)



Dr. John Nicoletti Psychologist

Columbine High School Shooting (1999) Aurora Movie Theater Shooting (2012)



Daniel Oates Chief of Police (Ret.), Aurora (CO) Police Department

Aurora Movie Theater Shooting (2012)



Max Schachter Victim Advocate, Safe Schools for Alex

Father of victim, Alex Schachter, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting (2018)



Connie Schonert
Supervising Probation
Officer, Orange County
(CA) Probation Dept.

Survivor/Peer Supporter, Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting (2017)



Charlie Scoma Chaplain, Seattle (WA) Police Department

Supported SPD and surrounding agencies during several critical incidents



Dr. Ronal Serpas Superintendent (Ret.), New Orleans (LA) Police Department

Bourbon Street Shooting (2014)



Dustin Sternbeck Director of Communications, Metropolitan (DC) Police Department

January 6 Insurrection (2021) and other critical incidents



Frank Straub
Director, Center for
Mass Violence
Response Studies,
National Policing
Institute

Multiple critical incidents



Kristen Ziman Chief of Police (Ret.), Aurora (IL) Police Department

Henry Pratt Company Shooting (2019)



Cara Zinski-Neace Public Information Officer, Dayton (OH) Police Department

Ned Peppers Bar Shooting (2019)